

# SESplan



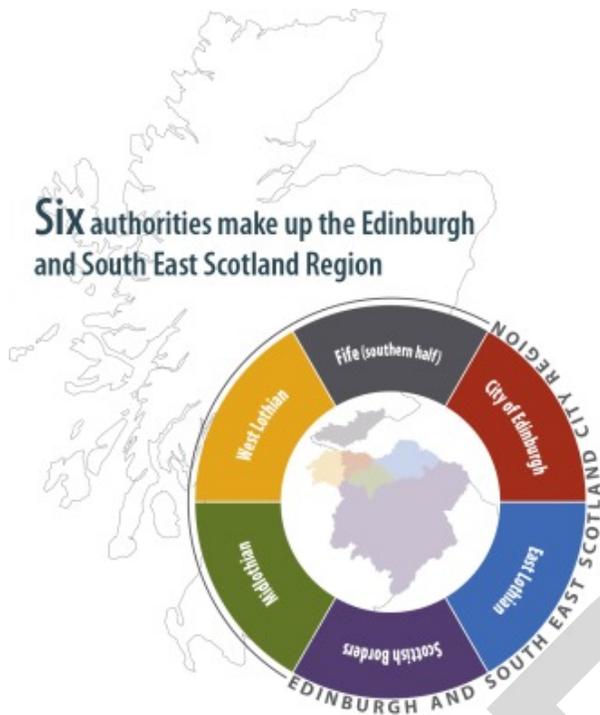
The Strategic Development Planning Authority  
for Edinburgh and South East Scotland

*Thriving, Successful, Sustainable*  
**Proposed Strategic Development Plan**

September 2016

Draft

## Six authorities make up the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Region



## SESplan and the Strategic Development Plan

SESplan is the Strategic Development Planning Authority for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland region. The region covers six council areas including City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, the Scottish Borders and the southern half of Fife. SESplan works in partnership with these six councils to prepare a Strategic Development Plan for the area.

A Strategic Development Plan is a statutory planning document which is prepared or updated every five years and covers a twenty year time period. It communicates strategic level and cross-boundary planning policy and applies national policy and guidance from the Scottish Government. It is used to inform the Local Development Plans prepared by each of the Local Authorities in the region.

## SESplan

### Have Your Say

SESplan is currently at a key stage in the preparation of the replacement Strategic Development Plan where we publish the Proposed Strategic Development Plan. The Proposed Strategic Development Plan is effectively a draft plan which represents our settled view on the final content of the replacement Plan. It has been informed by the responses received during the [Main Issues Report](#) consultation which took place between 21 July and 30 September 2015.

We are now inviting formal comments to be made on the Proposed Strategic Development Plan. At this stage representations should be limited to explaining what changes you consider should be made to the plan along with justification for the proposed changes.

The Proposed Strategic Development Plan publication period runs from XX September to XX October 2016. If you wish to submit a representation you should do so through the SESplan consultation Portal: [sesplan.objective.co.uk/portal](http://sesplan.objective.co.uk/portal).

In line with Scottish Government advice, the detail of each representation should be expressed in a concise way (no more than 2,000 words). A concise summary is also required (up to a maximum of 400 words), together with the change that is sought to the Proposed Plan.

Following completion of the publication period, SESplan is required to address all the representations and decide if any of them warrant modification to the Proposed Plan. If no modifications are considered appropriate then all of the representations and SESplan's response to them will be submitted to the Scottish Government alongside the Proposed Plan for examination.

The Proposed Strategic Development Plan and supporting documents can be viewed on the website [www.sesplan.gov.uk](http://www.sesplan.gov.uk), in public libraries, local planning authority offices and at the SESplan office at:

SESplan, Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6FF

For more information, or if you are unable to submit a representation through the Consultation Portal, please contact us on 01506 282883 or [contactus@sesplan.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@sesplan.gov.uk)

To keep up-to-date you can sign up to our mailing list, follow us on Twitter @SESplan or like us on Facebook.

## Foreword and Introduction

This plan sets out an ambitious vision to guide the growth of the South East Scotland region over the next 20 years. Our vision is for a city region that is easier to move around and where there are better public transport options. The success of Edinburgh's Trams and the Borders Railway has demonstrated that people will choose non-car options where a good service is available, with consequent benefits to our environment, health and economy. However, if we're to deliver a better transport system for everyone, we need to step up the pace of the delivery of transport infrastructure, particularly for public transport, walking and cycling and find new ways to pay for it. This plan sets out a number of proposals to help us do that.

Recognising the challenge of meeting people's needs for a home, member authorities have worked together to ensure that the targets for housing delivery are ambitious, but achievable. A spatial strategy focused on growth corridors with good public transport will ensure that this housing will be directed to the right places. A series of placemaking principles and a plan-led approach to green networks means that this growth can be delivered without damaging the natural assets that make the region a great place to live, work and visit.

The announcement that a City Region Deal for our region will be developed, in partnership with the UK and Scottish Governments, means that there will be opportunities to fund and deliver infrastructure in more innovative ways in the years ahead. The partner authorities are committed to an ambitious proposal to deliver a step change in the region's economic performance. We will play our full part in that process and make use of the fiscal powers to ensure that this region continues to be the best place to live in Scotland.

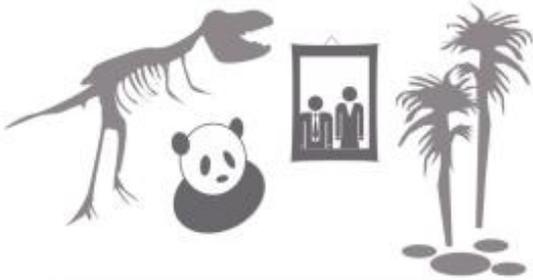
Councillor Stuart Bell

Convenor SESplan



## Distinctive Heritage and Culture

Home to over half of the top **20** most visited attractions in Scotland and 1 in the UK top **10**



Festival City – Edinburgh hosts the largest annual cultural festival in the world. Generating over **£260** million in the Scottish economy

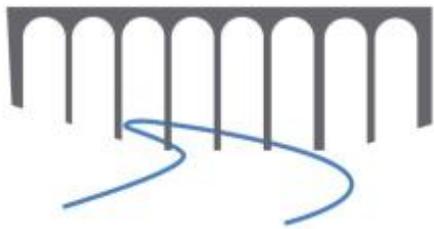
**Two UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Old and New Towns of Edinburgh and the Forth Bridge**



Scotland's Golf Coast  
Musselburgh to Dunbar

## A World Class Environment

**Two** National Scenic Areas - Eildon & Leaderfoot and Upper Tweedale



Tweed Valley Forrest Park - including Glentress Mountain Biking Centre

Pentland Hills Regional Park - Edinburgh's Playground & Lomond Hills Regional Park - Fife's playground!



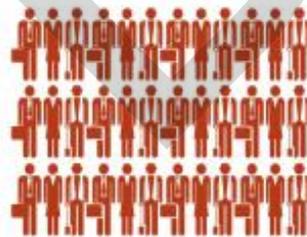
**3** National Nature Reserves - Blawhorn Moss, Whitlaw Mosses & St Abb's Head



Over **20** Natura Sites - Protected Areas of European Importance including most of the Firth of Forth Coast and Islands

## A Smart Economy

City Region contributes over **£33** billion of Gross Added Value to Scotland's economy. **26%** of the country's output



Edinburgh is the second most prosperous city in the UK (2013)



There is a skilled workforce **31.7%** working age population educated to degree or equivalent level (Scotland 26.4%) and we are home to **4** major universities

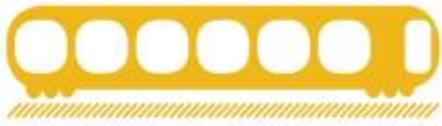
The city is a centre for excellence for financial services and the region is one of the UK's leading technology hubs



## Advanced Engineering and Infrastructure



The Queensferry Crossing is the longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge in the world and the **tallest bridge in UK.**



Borders Railway - longest domestic railway constructed in Britain for over **100** years.

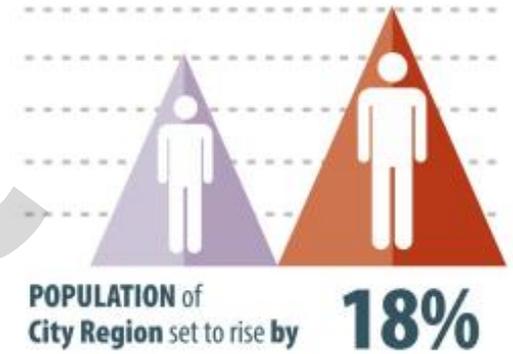


Edinburgh Airport  
Scotland's Busiest Airport  
with over **11** million  
passengers

## A Region of Opportunities



## SESplan Assets



# City Region Vision for 2038

*Thriving, Successful, Sustainable*

Sustainable growth has been achieved by carefully managing those assets that provide the most benefits and by making well designed, successful places where people can thrive. More people are able to afford a home in a place near where they work. A series of cross-boundary transport projects has made travel by public transport easier and more people are cycling and walking to work. The economy continues to grow and the region remains an outstanding place to live, work and visit. Communities in the region are healthier and there is less inequality and deprivation.

## What Change?

### Spatial Strategy

Most growth in and around Edinburgh and in Long Term Growth Corridors

Placemaking in the city region

Rural Growth Areas

Green Belts

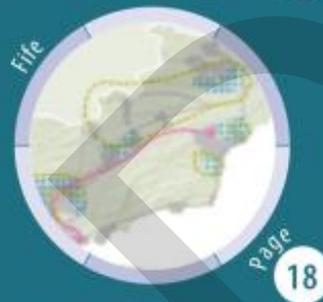
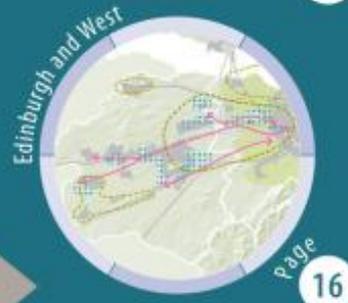
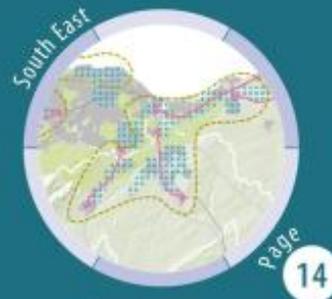
Cross-Boundary Green Networks

Strategic Cross-Boundary Transport Improvements

Key Diagram, page 11. Placemaking Principles, page 13.

## Where?

### Key Areas of Change



## How?

### Delivery Themes

### Strategic Opportunities

### Outcomes

A Place to do Business

Locations for Investment  
page 23

Improved employment opportunities and a more productive workforce

A Low Carbon Economy  
page 30

Impacts from climate change minimised and carbon reduction targets met

Increasing Housing Delivery  
page 34

Well-designed homes that meet more of the need for affordable housing

A Place for Communities

Thriving Town Centres  
page 41

Vibrant town centres

Enhanced Green Networks  
page 42

Reduced health and education inequalities

A Better Connected Place

Supporting Non-Car Travel  
page 45

More people use public transport and journey times are quicker

Regional Walking and Cycling  
page 46

Walking and cycling account for a bigger proportion of journeys

Strategic Transport Improvements  
page 48

## 2 The Vision

### Delivering the Vision

**2.1** The Strategic Development Plan will help achieve the SESplan vision by:

- Providing direction to Local Development Plans in the city region. Specific directions to Local Development Plans are emboldened and begin **"Local Development Plans will..."**
- Providing a context for development management – all planning applications have to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan<sup>(1)</sup> unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Specific statements relevant to development management are emboldened and begin **"Development should..."** or **"Development must..."**
- Influencing and supporting investment plans, strategic plans and other strategies affecting the region
- Identifying key strategic actions in the plan and in the SESplan Action Programme. Specific statements committing SESplan member authorities to take action begin **"SESplan member authorities will..."**

### SESplan Action Programme

**2.2** Many of the actions needed to deliver this plan are already set out in the action programmes related to each of the Local Development Plans in the city region. The SESplan Action Programme published alongside this plan will therefore focus on actions:

- to deliver cross-boundary infrastructure and infrastructure of regional importance
- to help deliver national developments
- that require the input and coordination of more than one local planning authority to deliver

### City Region Deal

**2.3** The member authorities are currently engaged in negotiations to conclude a 'City Region Deal' for the city region. This is a deal between the Scottish Government, UK Government and SESplan member authorities that allows greater fiscal autonomy on the basis of an investment programme that demonstrates additional economic growth. It is likely that this investment will help deliver some of the infrastructure needed in areas already allocated for development.

**2.4** It is too early to predict the impact of this potential new investment on the economy of the region or the extent to which economic growth may affect housing demand. However, taking into account the potential opportunities, this plan includes ambitious housing targets and a generous housing land requirement. These reflect estimates of housing demand based on an economic future where the public and private sector provide the kind of strong leadership that is a key feature of City Region Deal.

<sup>1</sup> The Development Plan for each of the local authority areas within this city region comprises the relevant Local Development Plan and the Strategic Development Plan (supported by relevant supplementary guidance)



# Spatial Strategy

## 3 The Spatial Strategy

### The Spatial Strategy

#### Most growth in and around Edinburgh and in Long Term Growth Corridors

**3.1** Over the next 20 years, most growth will be focused in and around Edinburgh and in indicative Long Term Growth Corridors (See Figure 3.1). The City of Edinburgh will meet a larger proportion of the region's housing need than in previous plans. This will help minimise commuting by car and reduce transport related carbon emissions, as well as making best use of existing infrastructure. 'A Place for Communities' (page 33) sets out the housing land requirement for each local authority area in the period 2018-2030 and provides an indication of the scale of housing land required beyond 2030.

#### Strategic Growth 2018-2030

**3.2** For the next 12 years, the need for strategic growth will be largely met by land already identified in existing and proposed Local Development Plans. The key diagram identifies the broad location of this as 'Strategic Growth 2018-2030'. Most of this will occur in and around Edinburgh and along transport corridors.

#### Growth Beyond 2030

**3.3** Beyond 2030, growth will be directed to locations in and around Edinburgh, locations along Long Term Growth Corridors and settlements within Rural Growth Areas. The purpose of the Long Term Growth Corridors is to direct growth to those transport corridors of primary importance for long term strategic growth. Rural Growth Areas identify those rural settlements in the Scottish Borders with potential for long term growth. The Placemaking Principles set out in Table 3.1 will be relevant over the long term and subsequent Strategic Development Plans will also include Placemaking Principles that guide the location and scale of development.

**3.4** If required to do so on the basis of future assessments, subsequent Strategic Development Plans will identify more specific locations suitable for further strategic growth in line with this long term growth strategy and the Placemaking Principles. In doing so they may direct subsequent Local Development Plans to release land, including land from the green belt, at locations along the Long Term Growth Corridors. These Local Development Plans may give more explicit policy protection to green networks in the remaining 'green wedges', in a way that recognises the full range of benefits and services that green networks provide (para. 5.20).

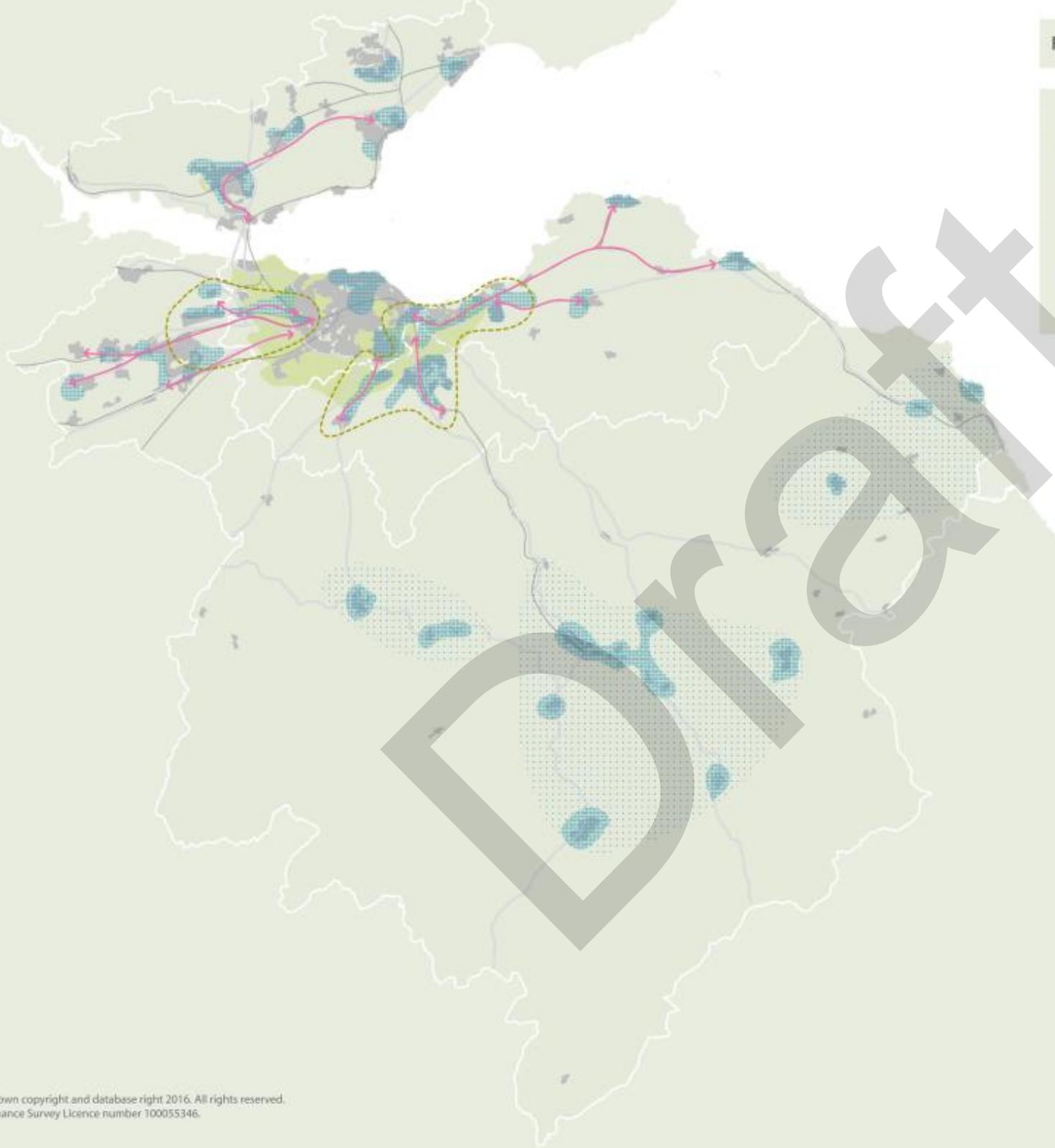
#### Placemaking in the City Region

**3.5** Placemaking is a collaborative process that includes design, development and renewal of our urban and rural built environments. Good places play a fundamental role in attracting investment and supporting economic growth, promoting healthy lifestyles and providing a sense of identity and community. **SESplan member authorities will ensure that communities are involved in the design and shaping of development at an early stage, using tools such as the Place Standard to engage local people in conversations about what places should be like.**

**3.6** Development should take account of the Placemaking Principles set out in Table 3.1. **Local Development Plans will include development frameworks, masterplans and design briefs that are aligned with relevant community plans and have been developed jointly with local people. Local Development Plans will be guided by the Placemaking Principles detailed in Table 3.1. and ensure that all international, national and locally designated areas are afforded the appropriate level of protection.** The City Region Assets on page 4 illustrate many of the key natural and historic assets of international, national and regional importance.

Figure 3.1 Key Diagram

- Strategic Growth 2018-2030
- Long Term Growth Corridor 2030+
- Rural Growth Areas
- Cross-boundary Green Network Areas
- Green Belt



## 3 The Spatial Strategy

### Strategic Cross-Boundary Transport Improvements

**3.7** Increasing traffic congestion has a major impact on movement into Edinburgh but also on movement to and between the western and south eastern fringes of the city. While the majority of these congested areas lie within the City of Edinburgh boundary, many of the journeys that contribute to that congestion are generated in neighbouring authorities. This plan sets out some of key the strategic transport improvements that are likely to be needed to address these cumulative and cross-boundary impacts. It also sets out the principles underpinning a Cross-Boundary Transport Contributions Framework, to be established through Supplementary Guidance, and the matters that the guidance will address.

### Green Belts & Related Countryside Designations

**3.8** Figure 3.1 Identifies the broad location of the existing green belts around Edinburgh and to the west of Dunfermline. **Local Development Plans will identify and maintain green belts and other countryside designations fulfilling a similar function where they are needed:**

- **To maintain the identity, character and landscape setting of settlements and prevent coalescence**
- **To protect and provide access to open space**
- **To direct development to the most appropriate location and support regeneration**

**In doing so, Local Development Plans will take into account any relevant guidance on green networks.**

### Cross-Boundary Green Networks

**3.9** Two Cross-Boundary Green Network Priority Areas have been identified to focus action on places where a coordinated, cross-boundary approach is needed to maximise the benefits of green infrastructure. **SESplan member authorities and key partners will prepare Strategic Frameworks for two cross-boundary Green Network Priority Areas (Edinburgh & West, Edinburgh & East) and adopt the frameworks as Supplementary Guidance to the plan. These frameworks will:**

- **Identify and safeguard those elements of the green network that provide, or have the potential to provide, the greatest benefits for people and nature**
- **Identify strategic enhancements to green networks that will add value to existing settlements, developments for which land has already been allocated and any new allocations in subsequent Local Development Plans**
- **Provide an additional context for development planning decisions**

Table 3.1 Placemaking Principles

<b>Distinctive</b>	Areas important for maintaining the character, landscape setting and distinctive identity of existing and proposed settlements should be protected and enhanced, particularly where they are needed to avoid the coalescence of settlements. The contribution of the natural and historic environment to making distinctive places should be maximised. Key views of the surrounding landscape should be integrated into developments to provide a sense of place and identity. Views of the Southern Uplands, the Lammermuir Hills, the Firth of Forth, the Pentland Hills, the Lomond Hills, the Bathgate Hills and key the landmarks of Edinburgh are particularly important in supporting a sense of place and making settlements distinctive.
<b>Safe and Pleasant</b>	Public spaces should be free from excessive traffic noise and air pollution and the needs of people should be considered before the movement of motor vehicles. Public spaces should be overlooked by housing, so that the people who use them feel safe and the people who live nearby feel a sense of ownership. It should be easy for people to access green/open space, including places where they can enjoy nature. Developments should be located within a network of green and blue infrastructure that provides a pleasant outlook for the people living and working there.
<b>Welcoming</b>	Gateways into settlements and extensions to existing settlements should be interesting, memorable and contribute to local distinctiveness. A wide range of public spaces of different types and character, accessible to all, should be provided that appeal to people of different ages and with different interests. Neighbourhood centres should include attractive and safe indoor and outdoor spaces where people can interact.
<b>Adaptable</b>	Development should be located where a wide range of densities, tenures and uses can be supported to meet the changing needs of the community into the future. Green networks should be multi-functional. They should comprise infrastructure that provides a range of benefits and can be adapted and enhanced depending on the local need for growing spaces, play spaces, natural spaces, public parks, sustainable urban drainage and the need to adapt to climate change.
<b>Resource Efficient</b>	New development should be located near existing public transport hubs, or in locations where there are planned infrastructure projects to enable easy access to the public transport network. The re-use or re-development of brownfield land should be considered before new development takes place on greenfield land, including Prime Agricultural Land and other land important for food production. Development should be located and orientated to maximise passive solar heating and opportunities for solar power generation. Heat mapping and other approaches should be used to identify opportunities to co-locate sources of high heat demand (e.g. housing) with sustainable sources of heat supply (e.g. biomass power plants). Development should be located away from functional flood plains and areas of medium to high flood risk. Areas important for flood storage and conveying capacity should be safeguarded for a range of compatible uses such as recreation, water quality management, flood attenuation and habitat creation. Development should be designed to minimise the area of impermeable surface and incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as appropriate.
<b>Easy to Move Around</b>	There should be good walking and cycling networks close to where people live, providing safe and convenient access to local facilities and to public transport stops. There should be a range of public transport options that provide easy access into Edinburgh, strategic centres, town centres, local centres and centres of employment. Developments should integrate with, and contribute to, the enhancement of walking and cycling networks.

## 3 The Spatial Strategy

### Key Areas of Change South East

**3.10** Edinburgh city and the Long Term Growth Corridors radiating east and south east encompass a range of strategic development opportunities over the next 20 years. The challenge in this area is to ensure that infrastructure is delivered that enables existing allocated sites to fulfil their potential.

**3.11** Blindwells and Edinburgh Waterfront remain a high priority for growth. The tram extension to Leith and Granton and the establishment of an attractive cycleway and footpath is fundamental to achieving a thriving low carbon waterfront community connected to the city. Blindwells could become one of the largest investment opportunities in south east Scotland. The site could deliver over 6,000 homes over the longer term, but will require much greater cooperation between landowners and the public sector to deliver the education and transport infrastructure needed to unlock its full potential.

**3.12** Shawfair station is at the centre of what will be a new community in Midlothian with the potential to deliver over 4,000 new homes and significant new employment land over the next 20 years. The scale of the proposal means there will be opportunities to provide more innovative low carbon power and heat solutions to support a more

sustainable place. Eskbank station will provide ready access to the Midlothian Community Hospital and a ten minute rail link between Edinburgh College campuses in Midlothian. New transport links from Shawfair station to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh will be needed to deliver benefits to patients and visitors from Midlothian and the Scottish Borders. A new rail station at East Linton and improved rail services on the East Coast line would help reduce commuting by road into the capital.

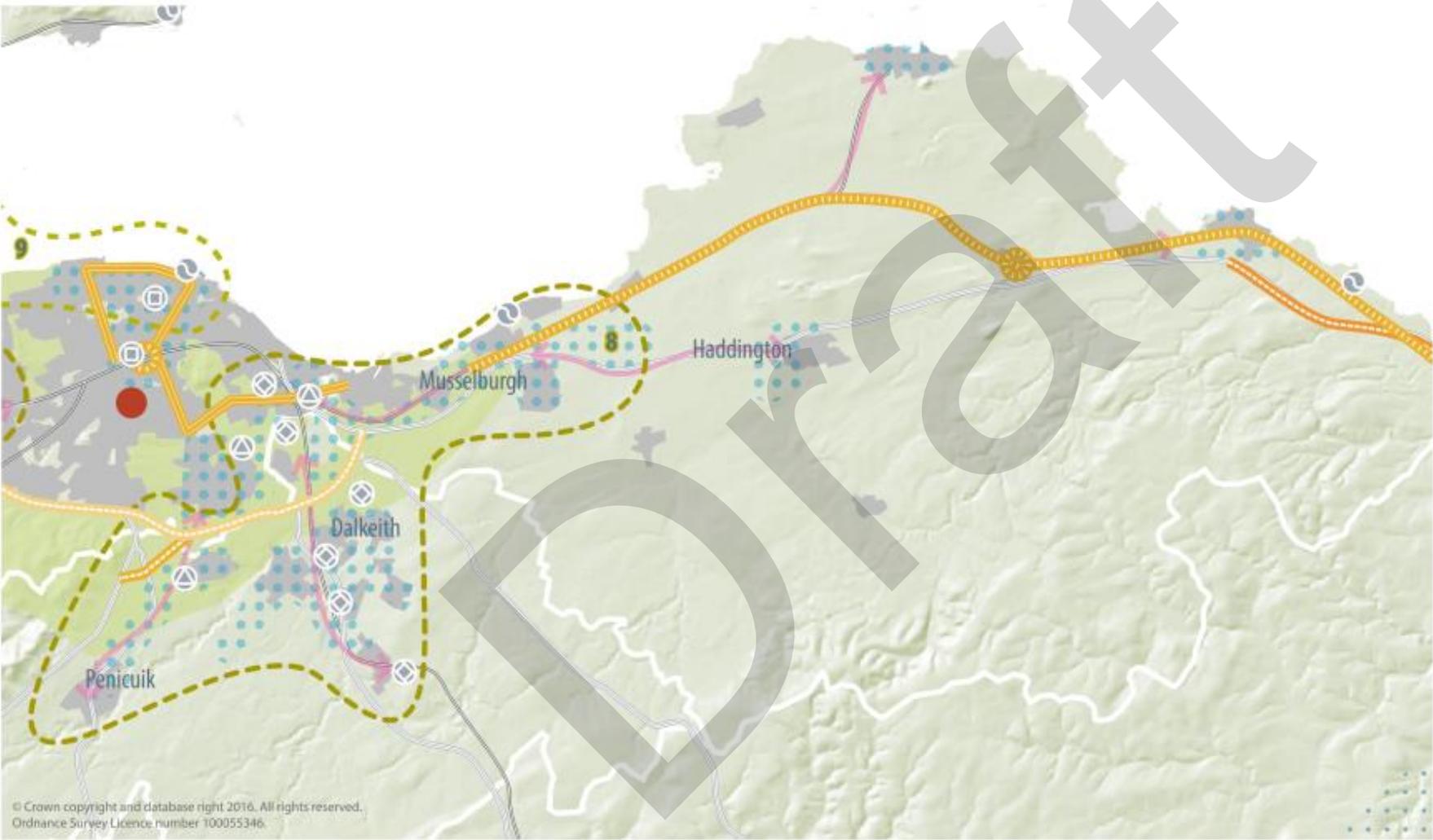
**3.13** Leith is a strong location for large scale manufacturing, installation, operations and maintenance for the renewables industry as well as a centre for the creative industries. The former Cockenzie Power Station site is not currently subject to specific proposals for carbon capture and storage and thermal generation. It remains part of an Area of Coordinated Action, but relevant stakeholders should consider a wider range of potential future uses for this site. The BioQuarter, Bush and BioCampus are key elements of the Edinburgh Science Triangle, one of the top ten research and development locations in Europe. They offer opportunities for academic, commercial and clinical research and a range of expansion opportunities for technology and bio-industries. The tram line extension to the BioQuarter,

Newcraighall and Queen Margaret University would provide a major contribution to reducing traffic into and out of Edinburgh.

**3.14** Midlothian, City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Councils will work together to take a plan-led approach to identifying and, where possible, enhancing the key green infrastructure around the periphery of Edinburgh. The priorities for action include addressing the City Bypass as a barrier to active travel and upgrading cycle routes on the A199 to become a cycle super-highway, providing an artery linking East Lothian with Edinburgh. It will also be important to establish and maintain a high quality landscape setting for existing and future settlements and identify and safeguard key strategic areas of open space.

**3.15** In order to deal with what is one of the region's major challenges in delivering sustainable growth, a range of transport interventions are likely to be needed around the periphery of south east Edinburgh. Major upgrades to junctions on the A720 are likely to be required to deal with existing congestion hotspots and to cope with future increases in traffic associated with housing delivery. Major upgrades to walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport provision will also be needed to encourage more people to leave their car at home for journeys into and around Edinburgh.

Figure 3.2 South East



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- STRATEGIC TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS**
  - Junction New/Improvement
  - Road New/Upgrade
  - Tram Extension
  - Rail Improvement/Upgrade
  - A720 Improvements and Orbital Bus
  - Rail Station New/Improvement
  - Longer Term and Aspirational Projects
  - Road Upgrade
- SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS CLUSTERS**
  - Forth Coast Cluster
  - Innovation and Science Cluster
  - Central Business Cluster
  - Borders Rail Cluster
- GREEN NETWORK**
  - 8 Edinburgh and East
  - 9 Forth Shores
- Other Symbols**
  - City Centre
  - Strategic Growth 2018-2030
  - Long Term Growth Corridor 2030+
  - Green Belt

## 3 The Spatial Strategy

### Key Areas of Change Edinburgh and West

**3.16** The completion of a new railway station is a key requirement in the delivery of an expanded settlement at Winchburgh in West Lothian, with the potential to accommodate over 3,000 homes and additional employment land. However, developers will need to address some of the additional infrastructure challenges relating to education provision. The new village at Calderwood and growth at Armadale and Bathgate (Wester Inch) will also make a substantial contribution to meeting housing needs.

**3.17** Livingston is the largest area of employment outside Edinburgh providing a range of opportunities for information and communication industries, life sciences, technology and precision engineering. Heartlands is an emerging community near Whitburn combining residential, business, retail and leisure opportunities with opportunities for further environmental improvement. The Polkemmet and Breich Water Green Network Priority Area provides a focus for partners to deliver a plan-led approach to identifying and delivering these improvements.

**3.18** West Edinburgh has the potential to deliver a range of opportunities for strategic growth, including the delivery of substantial housing developments with good transport connections. Edinburgh International Business Gateway provides a focus for substantial business-led investment and the land adjacent to Edinburgh Airport has been identified for a range of commercial and mixed uses. A long term masterplan for International Business Gateway is already in development, with the site being positioned as a top quality global business location aimed at attracting high value jobs from other areas of the UK and Europe.

**3.19** The Gogar Rail Interchange station on the Edinburgh to Fife line and a new stop on the Edinburgh Tram network will improve access to the airport. In addition, the City of Edinburgh Local Development Plan has safeguarded land for a future extension to the tram system to Newbridge. In the longer term there may be opportunities to extend this line to Broxburn, Uphall and Livingston.

**3.20** The Edinburgh and West Cross-Boundary Green Network Priority Area provides an opportunity for the City of Edinburgh and West Lothian to collaborate on a more plan-led approach to identifying the value of the green infrastructure within and beyond the Edinburgh green belt. A key priority will be to enhance landscape character at and around settlement gateways. Key opportunities here include the completion of a River Almond Walkway and a A71 cycle super highway linking south Livingston with Balerno, Currie and West Edinburgh. The creation of a high quality, segregated route will provide a key strategic link in the region's cycling network. Innovative approaches to water management, including the de-culverting of the Gogar Burn, will be needed to deliver growth opportunities in this area without increasing flood risk.

Figure 3.3 Edinburgh and West



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- STRATEGIC TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS**
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- SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS CLUSTERS**
- Forth Coast Cluster
  - Innovation and Science Cluster
  - Central Business Cluster
  - West Edinburgh Business Cluster
  - West Lothian Cluster
  - Borders Rail Cluster
- GREEN NETWORK**
- 5 Linlithgow
  - 6 Polkemmet and Breich Water
  - 7 Edinburgh and West
  - 8 Edinburgh and East
  - 9 Forth Shores
- City Centre
  - Strategic Centres
  - Edinburgh Airport
  - Strategic Growth 2018-2030
  - Long Term Growth Corridor 2030+
  - Green Belt

## 3 The Spatial Strategy

### Key Areas of Change Fife

**3.21** The Forth Bridges are a key gateway to employment and business. The opening of the Queensferry Crossing in 2016 and the use of the Forth Road Bridge for public transport, walking and cycling has been important in ensuring Fife can continue to benefit from opportunities in the city region and beyond.

**3.22** However, if this plan's vision is to be delivered in full, it is important that Fife's socio-economic needs continue to be met locally where possible in order that the area's towns can continue to thrive and the need to travel to employment is reduced. Rosyth Waterfront, Burntisland Port and Energy Park Methil (part of the 'Forth Coast Cluster') provide a range of business opportunities, including renewables manufacture and servicing. Improvements to the port at Rosyth will provide some of the Additional Freight Handling Capacity on the Forth (a National Development) needed in relation to heavily used North Sea freight shipping routes. Further environmental assessment work is currently being carried out to support the marine consents needed to progress this work.

**3.23** Areas around Dunfermline have the potential to deliver over 6,000 homes. Key to the delivery of these sites is the provision of a northern relief road and a western distributor road. These will work alongside new park and ride schemes and the improved access to the Forth Bridge to provide a range of travel options.

**3.24** A taskforce is currently developing a masterplan for the former powerplant at Longannet, with a focus on maximising employment opportunities. Significant growth is also planned in Kirkcaldy and development along the northern arc of the Fife Circle railway line will help bring about the regeneration of brownfield land associated with the former mining communities of the Ore Valley and Upper Leven Valley. The Levenmouth Rail Link would encourage more non-car travel, opportunities for more rail-freight and provide a further incentive to those looking to invest in the area.

**3.25** A Green Network Priority Area has been identified near Dunfermline, recognising that there are opportunities to strengthen the landscape setting of the settlement to the north and west and provide a more joined up walking and cycling network providing access to Townhill Country Park. Green Network Priority Areas have also been identified for the Ore Valley, the Kirkcaldy Gateways and Levenmouth and Coast, where there are a number of opportunities to help deliver green network improvements alongside new housing to strengthen the sense of place.

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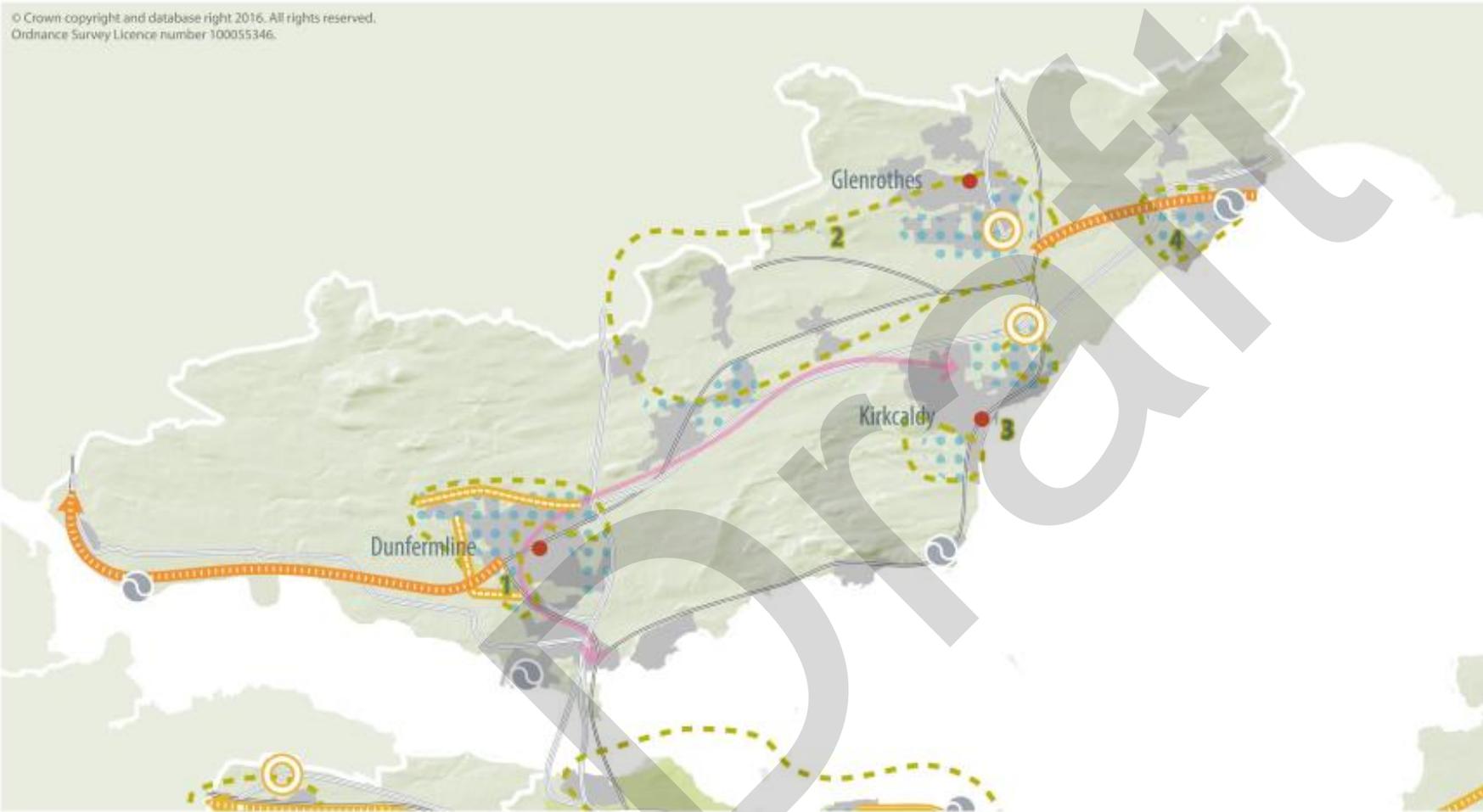


Figure 3.4 Fife

- STRATEGIC TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS**
  - Junction New/Improvement
  - Road New/Upgrade
  - Rail Improvement/Upgrade
- Longer Term and Aspirational Projects**
  - Rail Upgrade/Extension
- SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS CLUSTERS**
  - Forth Coast Cluster
- GREEN NETWORK**
  - 1 Dunfermline North and East
  - 2 Ore Valley
  - 3 Kirkcaldy Gateways
  - 4 Levenmouth and Coast
- Strategic Centres**
- Strategic Growth 2018-2030**
- Long Term Growth Corridor 2030+**
- Green Belt**

## 3 The Spatial Strategy

### Key Areas of Change Scottish Borders

**3.26** Strategic growth in the Scottish Borders will be directed to three Rural Growth Areas in Central Borders, Western Borders and Berwickshire. Border towns within these growth areas provide the focus for retail, commercial and strategic employment opportunities. Improved connectivity to Edinburgh to the north and Newcastle and Carlisle to the south is essential for the future economic growth of this area.

**3.27** The Borders Railway is the longest new railway to open in the UK for over a hundred years. New stations along the route provide new opportunities for businesses and communities. It has performed beyond expectations and provides an impetus to drive new development and business opportunities into the rural heartlands of the Scottish Borders. To maximise the opportunity, areas around the line as far south as Hawick have been given Assisted Area status.

**3.28** In Galashiels, Tweedbank and neighbouring communities, the Borders Rail line provides further opportunities to connect and grow communities. A potential future extension of the railway to Hawick and beyond is currently being considered by the Scottish Government. Major flood schemes in Selkirk, Hawick and Galashiels will also provide opportunities for growth and regeneration in the Central Borders.

**3.29** The line has made it easier for people in Edinburgh to travel to the Scottish Borders, widening the labour catchment and making it easier for businesses to recruit. It has provided a boost for retail and tourism businesses and better access to education opportunities at Borders College and the Heriot-Watt School of Textiles and Design. The rail link has also underpinned significant investment at the Central Borders Business Park at Tweedbank.

**3.30** On the East Coast Main Line, a new station at Reston will provide settlements in the Berwickshire with easier access to employment and education markets in Edinburgh and encourage more people to visit the area. Dualling of the A1 and local improvements to the A68 and A7 will improve journey times to and from England.

**3.31** The Countryside around Town designation provides the framework and setting for the Central Borders area and surrounding towns. A Strategic Green Network Priority Area connects settlements in the Central Borders with Peebles and Innerleithen in the western borders. Former railway lines represent a network of former track beds which link many of the larger towns. The network offers considerable potential for walking and cycling access to town centres and to tourism sites including Traquair House, Glentress Mountain Biking Centre, Abbotsford, Melrose and Dryburgh Abbey, Eildon and Leaderfoot National Scenic Area and the River Tweed.

Figure 3.5 Scottish Borders



- STRATEGIC TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS**
  - Rail Improvement/Upgrade
  - Rail Station New/Improvement
  - Longer Term and Aspirational Projects
  - Road Upgrade
  - Rail Upgrade/Extension
- SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS CLUSTERS**
  - Borders Rail Cluster
- GREEN NETWORK**
  - 10 Scottish Borders
- Strategic Growth 2018-2030
- Rural Growth Areas



**A Place to  
do Business**

## Locations for Investment

**4.1** This region has the potential to make a huge contribution to boosting Scotland's competitiveness and tackling inequality in line with the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy. This section sets out a range of strategic opportunities for investment in the region's infrastructure to help businesses to grow, innovate, and create good quality employment opportunities.

## Significant Business Clusters

**4.2** This plan identifies a number of Significant Business Clusters. These are broad locations where groups of similar or complementary business sectors or industries operate and where there are opportunities for expansion. This plan also includes clusters of different types of businesses or opportunities that share a common geography, such as the new opportunities made possible by the new Borders Rail Link.

**4.3** The clusters have been identified for their contribution or potential contribution to the city region's distinctive economy. Aligned with the spatial strategy and operating across local authority boundaries, the clusters provide opportunities for continued growth and expansion supporting a growing sustainable economy and increasing jobs.

**4.4** The clusters incorporate growing and established sectors and areas experiencing economic change where there are significant new opportunities. They include the growth sectors and National Developments identified by the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise<sup>(2)</sup> but also the industries and related sectors particular to the economy of south east Scotland.

**4.5** **SESplan member authorities will promote investment in the locations identified in Table 4.1. Local Development Plans will safeguard their future expansion by identifying and safeguarding sufficient land and supporting infrastructure including public transport and walking and cycling provision. Local Development Plans will adopt a flexible approach to allow for new long term employment opportunities.**

**4.6** **Local Development Plans will also consider whether to identify local based business clusters.** Identification of clusters at a local level can ensure the alignment of employment uses with housing and infrastructure, including sustainable travel networks.

**4.7** The strategic centres identified in the Place for Communities section are also key areas for investment and economic development.

2 [National Planning Framework \(2014\)](#), [Enterprise Areas](#), [National Renewables Infrastructure Plan](#)

## 4 A Place to do Business

Table 4.1 Significant Business Clusters

Significant Business Cluster	Comprises	Principal Sectors	Opportunities
Forth Coast Cluster	Fife Energy Corridor: Rosyth Waterfront, Burntisland Port, Energy Park Fife, Methil, sites of former power stations Cockenzie and Longannet; Torness and Leith Port	Energy and Port Use	Cluster of coastal sites providing opportunities for a range of uses. In particular, port use such as renewables manufacture and servicing, thermal and low carbon energy generation or other uses associated with an Area of Coordinated Action. The locations also present significant opportunities for innovative reuse and regeneration making use of the well serviced sites and their coastal locations.
Innovation and Science Cluster	Edinburgh BioQuarter; Midlothian BioCampus: Easter Bush and Bush Estate, Midlothian; Alba Innovation Centre, West Lothian; Edinburgh Napier, Queen Margaret, Heriot-Watt and Edinburgh universities (multiple campuses)	Research, Knowledge, Academia and Vocational Learning	Unique internationally recognised institutions supporting life science and technology research, innovation, academic and vocational education and training. The majority of sites and locations can accommodate space for start-ups, for spin-outs and grow-on businesses, as well as for more established businesses. Includes the Enterprise Areas at BioCampus and BioQuarter, where the extension of Edinburgh's tram network will enhance accessibility.
Central Business Cluster	Edinburgh City Centre and Leith	Business and Financial Services, Tourism, Service and Creative industries	Extensive cluster in central Edinburgh reflecting the status as one of Europe's most important areas for financial and business services, service industries, tourism and the creative industries. Opportunities for continued growth associated with redevelopment in the city centre and expansion in Leith supported by proposed tram line extensions.

Significant Business Cluster	Comprises	Principal Sectors	Opportunities
West Edinburgh Business Cluster	International Business Gateway, Edinburgh Airport and Scotland's National Showground; Edinburgh Park, South Gyle and Gogarburn	Business and Financial Services	Growing cluster of existing and emerging developments located to the west of Edinburgh with a strong focus on business and financial services supported by mixed-uses including conference facilities and tourism.
West Lothian Cluster	Broxburn and Livingston Enterprise Areas and Heartlands Business Park	Manufacturing, Information and Communication	Comprises the West Lothian Enterprise Area (plots at Broxburn and Livingston) focused on food and drink manufacture and a range of opportunities associated with Heartlands Business Park including technology, media and logistics, making use of good connections to the transport network.
Borders Rail Cluster	Sites in Midlothian and Central Borders enabled by the Borders Rail Line.	Business Services, Food and Drink, Tourism	Presents opportunities for tourism, recreational development and wider business and industrial growth and investment in the central Borders. Scottish Government match funding to projects in Borders and Midlothian and recent investment in Tweedbank present significant opportunities. Closer to the city there are opportunities associated with planned new mixed-uses at Shawfair and at other locations close to the rail line.

## 4 A Place to do Business

### Rural Economy

**4.8** The city region benefits from a large rural area which provides significant assets to the urban population including food production, water supply, renewable energy, timber production and tourism and recreation. The Scottish Borders alone makes up two thirds of the region's land area. There is a diverse range of loose business clusters in small and medium scale businesses that make a significant contribution to the economy. These include tourism, food and drink, textiles manufacturing, farming and forestry, low carbon and creative and niche industries.

**4.9** The Borders railway and the proposed new stations in East Linton and Reston present opportunities to promote diversification. The Tyne Esk Leader Project and the Borders Leader programme support diversification of agriculture and rural business. Diversification of the fishing and fish-processing industry in Borders and Forth is being supported by a Fisheries Local Action Group.

**4.10** The Borderlands initiative is a national cross-border project involving Scottish Borders Dumfries and Galloway, Carlisle City, Cumbria and Northumberland Councils. It seeks to deliver improved infrastructure, transport and communications links, economic growth and employment opportunities in rural areas of southern Scotland and northern England.

**4.11** There are issues to be addressed to ensure the continued viability of the rural industries. These include the development of high speed broadband; the promotion of economic opportunity within the Fisheries Local Action Group area, the potential for harbours such as Eyemouth to service offshore wind farms; the promotion of low carbon opportunities including solar and hydro; the promotion of opportunities to maximise the benefits from the area's forestry, including the potential for sawmills and wood chip plants and the sustaining of mart and abattoir resources to serve the area's farming industries. **SESplan member authorities will therefore support the continued operation, diversification and expansion of rural businesses.**

## Employment Land Supply

**4.12** To achieve the vision of a thriving, successful and sustainable city region it is essential that there is sufficient employment land which is both available and situated in the right locations to provide jobs to meet the region's growing population. **Local Development Plans will identify and safeguard a sufficient supply of employment land taking account of market demands and existing infrastructure. This land should be able to deliver sites which are serviced or serviceable over the plan period.**

**4.13** Local Development Plans will identify and safeguard large scale employment sites where necessary in line with the spatial strategy and, where appropriate, within the significant business clusters. This is to ensure employment opportunities are accessible by public transport and walking and cycling networks, to enable the regeneration of former sites and to strengthen the region's key economic sectors.

**4.14** Local Development Plans will support diversification and re-categorisation of existing employment sites where this facilitates wider business opportunities, mixed-uses or an increased density of development, whilst ensuring an overall sufficient supply of employment land is maintained.

## 4 A Place to do Business

### Responsible Resource Extraction

**4.15** An adequate source of minerals for construction, manufacturing and energy, close to where they are needed, is essential to support economic growth and a low carbon city region. Minerals extraction also supports a range of jobs.

**4.16** A sufficient supply of construction aggregates is required to meet the anticipated construction needs in the city region over the Strategic Development Plan period. Identification and safeguarding of these resources provides for a more sustainable and economically self-sufficient city region with less reliance on importing resources from elsewhere.

**4.17** **SESplan member authorities will establish a Minerals Working Group. This group will review the aggregate resources of the city region (based on Scottish Government minerals survey data and relevant locally sourced information) to ensure there is a sufficient aggregates landbank of permitted reserves for construction aggregates of at least 10 years.**

**4.18** **Local Development Plans will use the relevant monitoring information to identify and safeguard sufficient construction aggregates to form a land bank of reserves for a minimum of 10 years. These should be in locations where there are deposits of sufficient scale and quantity for commercial extraction and which could be worked without unacceptable environmental or amenity impacts in accordance with Scottish Planning Policy.**

**4.19** **Local Development Plans will identify coal, oil and gas reserves to support a diverse energy mix, giving sufficient weight to the avoidance of long term environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions from their use.** The Scottish Government is currently maintaining a moratorium on granting development consents for unconventional oil and gas development across Scotland.

**4.20** The region has a legacy of sites where minerals were formerly extracted. There are a number of examples in the region where sites have undergone or are currently undergoing restoration or regeneration. These include sites such as Heartlands, West Lothian which is being transformed to provide homes and employment. **Local Development Plans will identify former mineral sites and the potential means of restoration and regeneration in accordance with the vision and spatial strategy of the Strategic Development Plan.**

## A Low Carbon Economy

**4.21** The spatial strategy reflects the need for the region to grow in a way that contributes to a low carbon economy. New development is directed to locations where the need to travel is reduced and there are good public transport links. A range of public transport infrastructure enhancements and improvements to regional walking and cycling routes will also mean there are more opportunities to choose low carbon travel.

**4.22** In line with the Placemaking Principles (Table 3.1), **Local Development Plans will identify, as appropriate, opportunities to co-locate sources of high heat demand (e.g. housing) with sources of heat supply (e.g. biomass power plants) and to locate new development where passive solar heating and solar power generation can be maximised.**

## Energy Generation

**4.23** The site of the former Cockenzie Power Station is not currently subject to specific proposals for carbon capture and storage and thermal generation. However, the Cockenzie site, along with the former Longannet power station are retained within the Forth Energy Business Cluster, reflecting the opportunity for these sites to contribute to renewables manufacture, servicing of offshore renewables and any possible

longer-term opportunities to contribute to a Carbon Capture and Storage Network. The potential for the regeneration of Longannet and Cockenzie provides opportunities to explore more innovative approaches to delivering low carbon places, such as district heating and energy storage schemes. In addition to the Forth Coast Cluster, The Innovation and Science Cluster (page 24) includes the University of Edinburgh, Napier University and Heriot-Watt University, all at the forefront of renewable energy research.

**4.24** Wind farm developments in the region, particularly in the Scottish Borders and in East Lothian have already made a major contribution to Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy. There are also significant areas of peatland habitat in the Scottish Borders important for carbon sequestration. Figure 4.1 sets out a spatial framework that identifies areas with potential for wind farm development, subject to landscape capacity and detailed consideration against relevant Local Development Plan policy criteria. Included in this framework is a 2km separation zone around settlements. **Local Development Plans will apply these 2km separation zones up to a maximum of 2km from an identified settlement envelope or edge.**

**4.25** **SESplan member authorities will establish a Cross-boundary Windfarm Working Group to explore the potential for a plan-led approach to identifying strategic capacity for wind farms and repowering opportunities (i.e. replace old turbines with new ones) in areas where there are likely to be cross-boundary effects. Relevant member authorities will pursue a collaborative plan-led approach to re-powering in order to minimise the impact on key cross-boundary assets.**

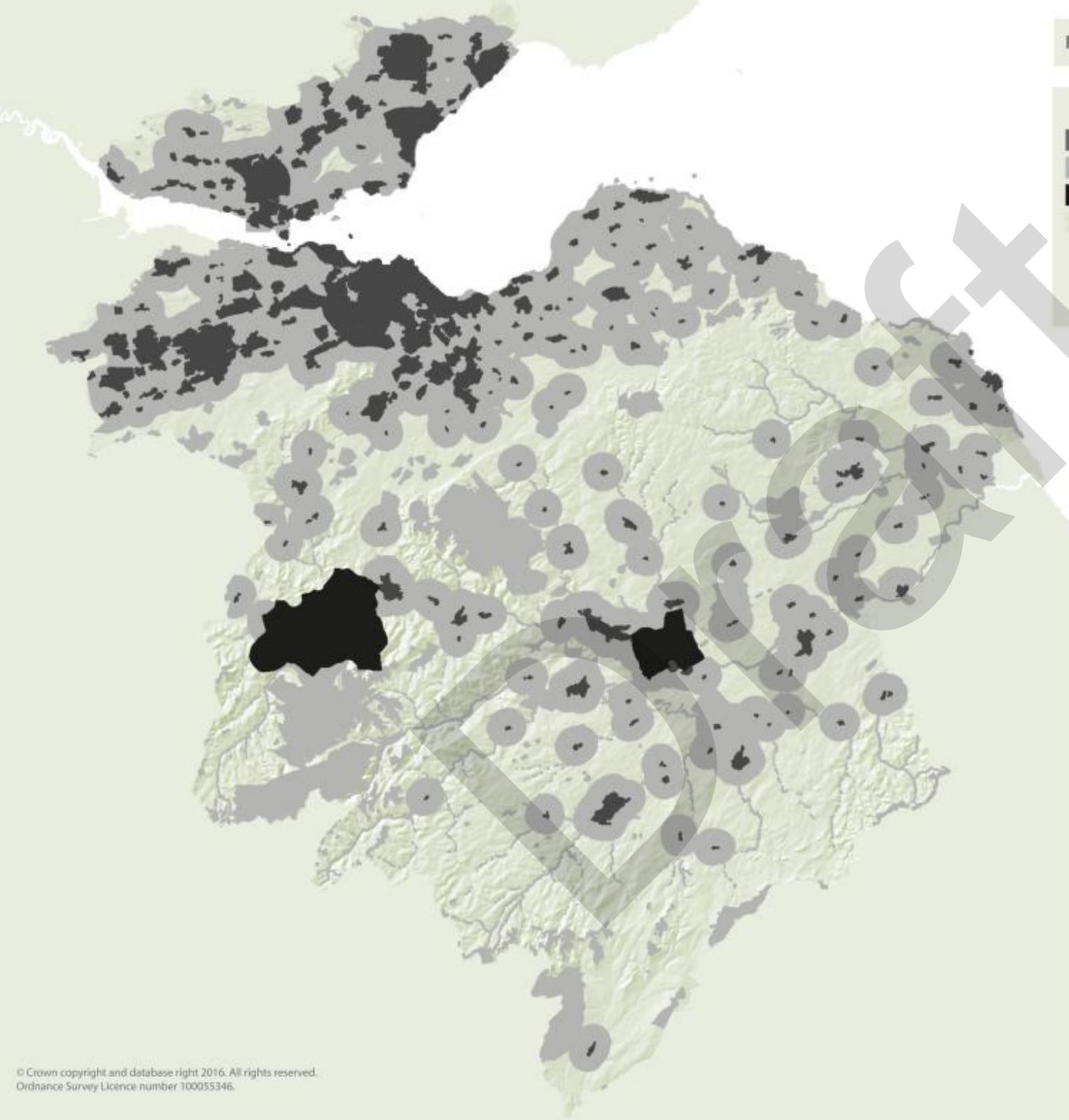
**4.26** **Local Development Plans will also set out the full range of additional considerations they will apply to wind farm proposals based on the particular characteristics of each area. In doing so, they should liaise closely with neighbouring authorities to identify and establish a consistent policy approach to key strategic cross-boundary assets. These assets will include, but will not be limited to, the Pentland Hills Regional Park, the Lomond Hills Regional Park, the Lammermuir Hills and the Firth of Forth.**

Figure 4.2 Onshore Wind Spatial Framework

- Settlements
- Areas of significant protection \*
- Areas where wind farms not acceptable
- Areas with potential for wind farm development \*

\* Includes carbon and peatland data from SNH consultation draft dataset 2015

\* Subject to landscape capacity and other assessment



## Zero Waste

**4.27** The Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan seeks to make the most efficient use of resources by minimising demand and maximising reuse, recycling and recovery. The principle of 'zero waste' means wasting as little as possible and recognising that waste is an economic resource that can contribute to a low carbon economy.

**4.28** Local Development Plans will support proposals which encourage recycling and recovery of waste where these are in accordance with the Zero Waste Plan and take account of environmental, transport, economic and amenity factors. Opportunities for co-location with other uses which can make use of any recovered heat will be supported. The current landfill capacity in the city region is in excess of the requirements set out by the Scottish Government.



# A Place for Communities

## Increasing Housing Delivery

**5.1** New housing is needed to provide homes for those already living in the region, including younger people who need a first home, families who want to move up or older people who may wish to downsize. New homes are also needed for those who want to move here, helping the economy grow so that strategic centres and town centres can continue to thrive. Access to well designed, energy efficient, affordable homes supports health and wellbeing and helps create successful places.

This plan sets out ambitious targets for housing and a generous land requirement to enable these targets to be met.

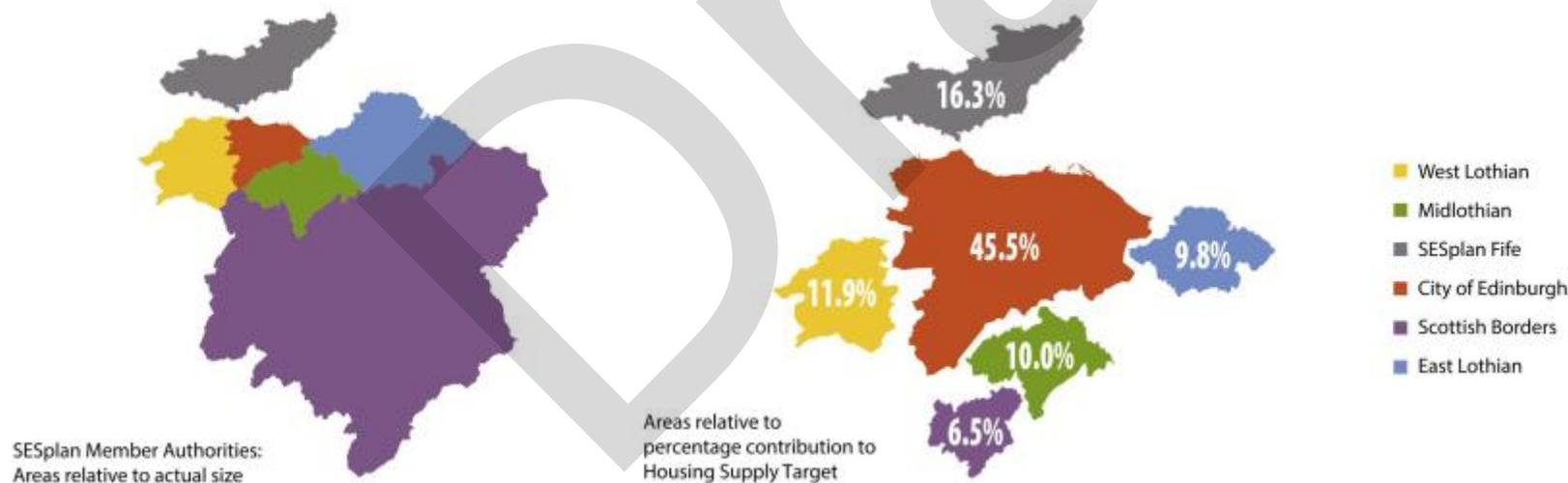
### Housing Supply Targets and Housing Land Requirements

**5.2** Table 5.1 sets out the number of homes (The Housing Supply Target) to be built in the SESplan Housing Market Area. This has been divided between member authorities in a way that reflects housing need and demand as well as environmental and infrastructure capacity. This

provides a Housing Supply Target, split into market and affordable, for each local authority area over the years 2018-2030.

**5.3** The Housing Land Requirement (Table 5.2) sets out the generous level of housing land needed to allow the Housing Supply Targets to be met. A 10% generosity margin has been applied to the Housing Supply Targets to calculate the Housing Land Requirements. The 10% margin provides for a generous land supply whilst ensuring that the viability of allocated sites is not undermined by an over supply of land.

**Figure 5.1 Distribution of Housing Supply Target**



## 5 A Place for Communities

Table 5.1 Housing Supply Targets 2018-2030

Area	Number of Homes Annual Average			Number of Homes Period Total		
	Market	Affordable	Combined	Market	Affordable	Combined
City of Edinburgh	1,220	1,200	2,420	14,640	14,400	29,040
East Lothian	330	189	519	3,960	2,268	6,228
Fife <sup>(3)</sup>	605	262	867	7,260	3,144	10,404
Midlothian	369	165	534	4,428	1,980	6,408
Scottish Borders	220	128	348	2,640	1,536	4,176
West Lothian	333	300	633	3,996	3,600	7,596
<b>SESplan</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>5,321</b>	<b>36,924</b>	<b>26,928</b>	<b>63,852</b>

**Table 5.2 Housing Land Requirements 2018-2030**

Area	Number of Homes	
	Annual Average	Period Total
City of Edinburgh	2,662	31,944
East Lothian	571	6,851
Fife <sup>(4)</sup>	954	11,444
Midlothian	587	7,049
Scottish Borders	383	4,594
West Lothian	696	8,356
<b>SESplan</b>	<b>5,853</b>	<b>70,237</b>

## 5 A Place for Communities

**5.4** The Housing Supply Targets were informed by the 2015 SESplan Housing Need and Demand Assessment. The targets are reasonable, deliverable and supported by compelling evidence, set out in the SESplan Housing Background Paper. Evidence is drawn from economic, environmental and infrastructure analysis as well as delivery opportunities and funding. In summary:

- The majority of need and demand identified in the 2015 Housing Need and Demand Assessment is for affordable housing. Whilst the affordable targets are ambitious and set higher than 2010–2015 delivery levels, it is not possible to deliver the 4000+ affordable homes per annum suggested by the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment. Instead, the targets are a realistic estimate of what might be deliverable based on a range of factors, including potential levels of funding available to support affordable housing
- Market targets exceed the level of demand identified to help meet some of the shortfall in affordable housing need. This will be achieved through more affordable models of market housing, the role of help to buy schemes and an increased role for new build private rented housing

- A greater proportion of the region's housing need and demand is being met in the City of Edinburgh than previously. The distribution of the Housing Supply Targets supports the plan's strategy to locate housing nearer where people work, support public transport use and encourage more people to walk and cycle to work. This will help to improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts

**5.5** Delivering the plan will require an ambitious affordable housing delivery programme. This is in line with SESplan member authority and Scottish Government plans to increase affordable housing delivery. **Local Development Plans will set out the proportion of affordable housing that will be sought on market sites, taking into account relevant local factors. Affordable housing will also be developed by housing associations and councils, making best use of the public estate.**

**5.6** Specialist housing, including a wide range of housing with care and support, plays an important role in enabling people to live healthy lives with dignity and independence. **SESplan member authorities will ensure that Local Housing Strategies and Local Development Plans enable the types of homes that will address the needs of a growing, ageing population and the growth in the number of smaller households.**

**5.7** The housing needs of gypsies and travellers is a potential cross-boundary issue. **SESplan member authorities will work together through the South East Scotland Housing Forum to update housing need information for these communities.**

## 2018-2030 Period

**5.8 Local Development Plans will ensure that there is a sufficient supply of housing land to meet the Housing Land Requirements over the 10 year period from the expected date of plan adoption.** Estimates indicate that there is sufficient housing land supply to meet the Housing Land Requirements for the 2018-2030 period in East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian. This is due to the existing land supply set out in Local Development Plans based on housing requirements in the previous Strategic Development Plan.

**5.9** Estimates indicate that City of Edinburgh may have a shortfall of housing land. To meet any shortfall, the **City of Edinburgh Local Development Plan will give priority to brownfield sites in the urban area within the Green Belt's inner boundary and ensure all allocations are consistent with this Strategic Development Plan.**

**5.10** For all SESplan member authorities the level of housing land to be allocated will depend on the estimates of housing land at the time of Local Development Plan preparation. This could include evidenced allowances for windfall sites and demolitions. **SESplan member authorities will also consider deallocating sites carried over from multiple plan cycles where action taken has proved ineffective in making them deliverable**

over a number of plan periods. SESplan member authorities will also consider deallocating sites where they are not required to meet plan objectives or consider changing such sites to long term growth opportunities.

**5.11** A step change in the level of home building is needed for the Housing Supply Targets to be achieved. **SESplan member authorities will monitor the availability of effective housing land in relation to the SESplan Housing Market Area and by Local Authority Area. This will be monitored and updated annually through the housing land audit. They will maintain a five year effective housing land supply at all times measured against the five year housing supply targets. These are calculated by multiplying the annual average housing supply targets (Table 5.1) by five.**

**5.12** Where a SESplan member authority determines there is a shortfall in the five year effective land supply, they will consider permitting proposals for additional housing supply, subject to the following criteria:

- **Development must be consistent with the spatial strategy of the development plan;**

- **The scale of the proposal and the proportion of affordable and market housing in the development must reflect the type (market or affordable) and scale of the shortfall identified;**
- **Development must demonstrate that a significant proportion of the total number of homes proposed will be completed in the next five years**
- **The scale, location and design of development must take account of the Placemaking Principles (Table 3.1);**
- **Development must align with any SESplan member authority guidance on green networks;**
- **Development must align with green belt objectives or the objectives of other designations fulfilling a similar function (Para. 3.6); and**
- **Development must demonstrate that any infrastructure required is already committed and funded, or will be delivered by the developer.**

## 5 A Place for Communities

### 2030-2038 Period

**5.13** Indications of the scale of housing required have been provided for 2030-2038 based on the 2015 Housing Need and Demand Assessment estimates. These figures do not take into account wider factors that may influence delivery, given the difficulty of making robust assumptions about these at this time. They are higher than the Housing Supply Targets for 2018-30 and will require a further step-change in the rate of delivery of affordable housing if the full level of affordable need is to be met. Housing land allocations are likely to be required in all authorities for the 2030-2038 period to meet this need. These allocations will need to be made in Local Development Plans being prepared after the next Strategic Development Plan, in line with the spatial strategy. The next Strategic Development Plan will identify more specific locations for these to be met in line with the spatial strategy.

Table 5.3 Indicative Scale of Housing Required 2030-2038

Area	Number of Homes Combined Annual Average	Number of Homes Combined Period Total
City of Edinburgh	2,491	19,928
East Lothian	534	4,274
Fife <sup>(5)</sup>	892	7,139
Midlothian	550	4,397
Scottish Borders	358	2,866
West Lothian	652	5,212
<b>SESplan</b>	<b>5,477</b>	<b>43,816</b>

## 5 A Place for Communities

### Thriving Town Centres

**5.14** The City of Edinburgh is the regional core of south east Scotland and provides a broad range of functions of regional and national importance. In addition, we have identified four strategic centres. These serve wide geographical areas and provide a range of functions at a sub-regional level, attracting significant footfall from beyond the settlement they serve.

**5.15** The role of town centres is changing to promote a wider mix of uses which will enhance their vitality and viability. **Local Development Plans**

will support all uses in town centres that generate significant footfall such as retail and commercial leisure, offices, community, cultural facilities and opportunities for town centre living. **Local Development Plans will also encourage the development of an evening/ night-time economy in town centres.**

**5.16** **Local Development Plans will identify, taking account the hierarchy of centres in Table 5.4, a network of centres including town centres, local centres and commercial centres and explain how they can complement each other. Local Development Plans will apply a Town Centre First**

policy. This means that when planning for any use that generates significant footfall, locations should be considered in the following order of preference:

- **Town Centres (including the City Centre and Strategic Centres)**
- **Edge of town centre**
- **Other commercial centres identified in the development plan; and**
- **Out of centre locations that are easily accessible by a choice of transport modes or will be made so by investment delivered by relevant development**

**Table 5.4 Hierarchy of Centres**

Hierarchy	Centres	Function
City Centre	Edinburgh City Centre	Diverse mix of uses including shopping, residential, leisure and evening economy, national government and cultural resources of national importance
Strategic Centres	Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and Livingston	Diverse mix of uses including shopping, residential, local governance, leisure and evening economy to support a wide geographical area
Town Centres	To be identified in Local Development Plans	Diverse mix of uses including shopping, residential, leisure and evening economy
Local Centres	To be identified in Local Development Plans	Mix of uses to support local needs
Commercial Centres	To be identified in Local Development Plans	Specific focus on retail and leisure uses

## A Place for Communities 5

**Enhanced Green Networks**

**5.17** Green infrastructure is the use of ecosystems, green spaces and water in strategic land use planning to deliver benefits for people and nature and to add value to the economy by supporting sustainable growth. Green infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, road verges, allotments and private gardens, as well as blue infrastructure such as sustainable urban drainage ponds, swales, wetlands, rivers and canals.

**5.18** Green networks are connected areas of green and blue infrastructure. Well designed, multi-functional green networks are a fundamental component of successful places. They provide a range of benefits including:

- Improving quality of place to make the area more attractive to residents and investors
- Opportunities for biodiversity to flourish so that people can experience nature close to where they live
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Flood management
- Opportunities to get outdoors and lead healthier lives
- Strengthening the landscape character that makes places distinctive
- Opportunities for safe and pleasant walking and cycling
- Improving vacant and derelict land
- Providing places to play and meet with friends, or take a break from work

**5.19** Two Cross-Boundary Green Network Priority Areas and eight additional Green Network Priority Areas have been identified within the region. These are the areas of greatest strategic importance for green network protection and enhancement and represent a significant component of the Central Scotland Green Network identified as a National Development in National Planning Framework 3.<sup>(6)</sup>

**5.20** **SESplan member authorities will prepare frameworks for these areas that will:**

- **Identify and safeguard those elements of the green network that provide, or have the potential to provide, the greatest benefits for people and nature**
- **Identify strategic enhancements to green networks that will add value to existing settlements, developments for which land has already been allocated and any new allocations in subsequent Local Development Plans**
- **Provide an additional context for planning decisions**

**SESplan member authorities will prepare Strategic Frameworks for the two Cross-Boundary Green Network Priority Areas and adopt these as Supplementary Guidance to the Strategic Development Plan within one year of plan approval. SESplan member authorities will prepare non-statutory Frameworks for the other Green Network Priority Areas and incorporate the key elements of these frameworks into the relevant Local Development Plan at the first opportunity.**

<sup>6</sup> Note however that the Scottish Borders Green Network Priority Area is not part of the Central Scotland Green Network National Development

Figure 5.2 Strategic Green Networks

- 1 Dunfermline North and East
- 2 Ore Valley
- 3 Kirkcaldy Gateways
- 4 Levenmouth and Coast
- 5 Linlithgow
- 6 Polkemmet and Breich Water
- 7 Edinburgh and West
- 8 Edinburgh and East
- 9 Forth Shores
- 10 Scottish Borders





# A Better Connected Place

## 6 A Better Connected Place

### Supporting Non-Car Travel

**6.1** Improved connectivity, with a better walking and cycling network and more public transport options, will make the region an easier place to do business and a better place to live. The region currently experiences significant rail and road transport pressures, particularly on approaches to and journeys around Edinburgh. The spatial strategy in this plan, underpinned by the placemaking principles, addresses the need to reduce travel and to encourage more low carbon transport choices. It supports the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy hierarchy of provision by enabling more journeys to take place by walking, cycling and by public transport. This will contribute to improved air quality, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and have significant health benefits for our communities.

**6.2** The design, density, siting, layout and mix of uses in a place determines how easy it is to move around and influences the travel choices that people make to get to and from that place. **Development should take account of the needs of people before the movement of cars. Therefore in addition to the Placemaking Principles set out in Table 3.1, new development should be designed in accordance with [Designing Streets](#) to ensure that non-car travel is an easy and convenient choice.**

**6.3** Local Development Plans will ensure that large scale housing development is located where there is good access to town centres and employment locations by walking and cycling routes and by public transport. Where new infrastructure is needed to enable this access, Local Development Plans will ensure that this is delivered ahead of, or as part of, new development.

**6.4** Developments should be designed so that the density, use and layout helps reduce the need to travel by car. Developments should include clear and direct links to public transport nodes and good access to walking and cycling networks. Development close to public transport nodes and interchanges should be at higher development densities.

## Walking and Cycling

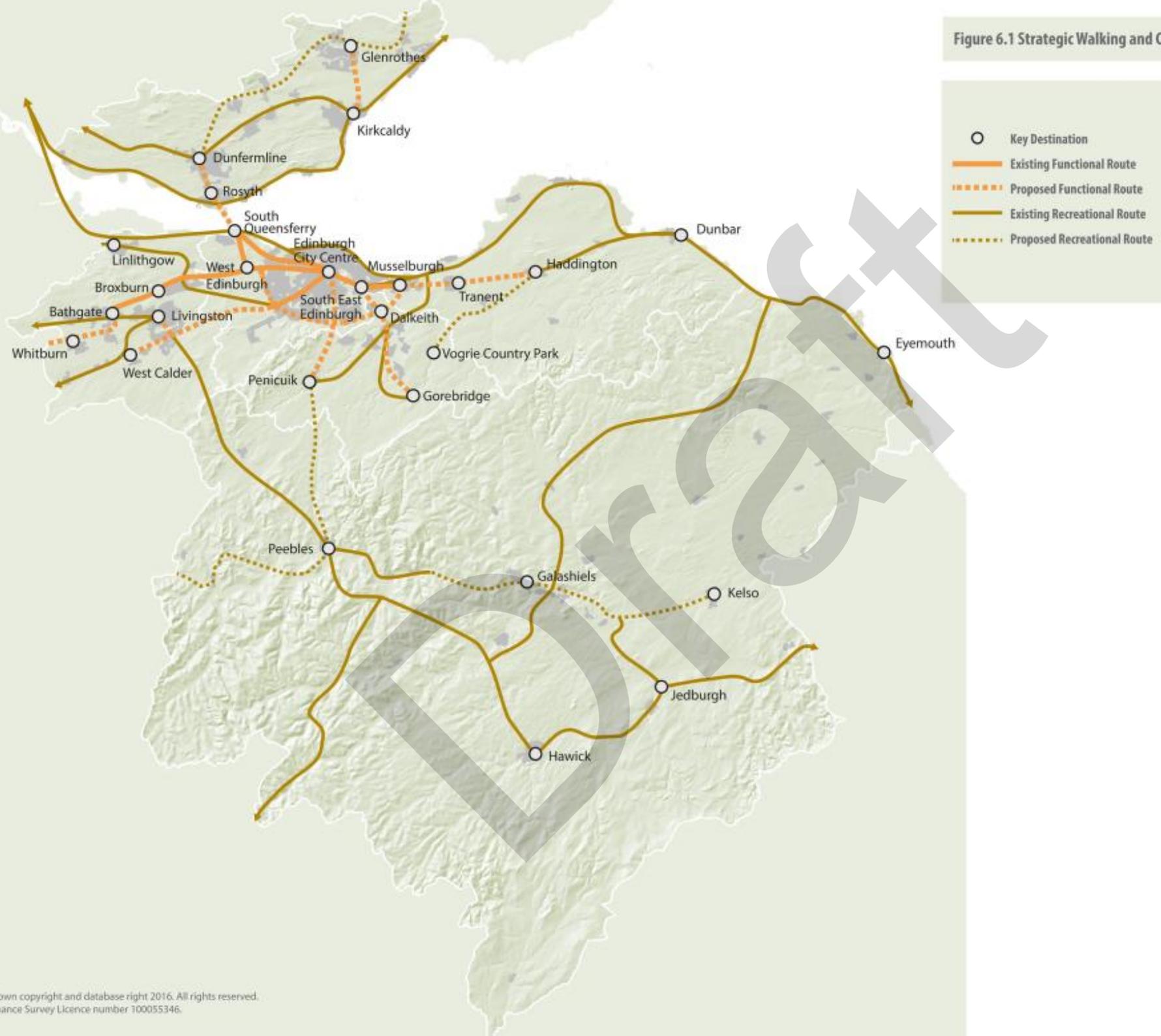
**6.5** Significant infrastructure improvements are needed to help support the Scottish Government's vision for walking and cycling set out in the [National Walking Strategy](#) and the [Cycling Action Plan for Scotland](#). SESplan supports the objective that by 2020, 10% of all journeys taken in Scotland will be made by bike. Figure 6.1 identifies priority strategic functional (transport) and recreational routes to help support this objective and the Action Programme sets out the specific improvements to the network.

**6.6** A strategic **Functional Route** is a continuous walking and cycling route providing a fast, direct route between multiple key destinations. It should be largely off road or physically separated from traffic, have a smooth surface and be appropriately lit and maintained so that it suits people of all abilities. A key purpose of these routes is to encourage more people to cycle or walk to school, work and the shops. A strategic **Recreational Route** may be indirect, can suit a range of different uses such as horse riding and may be of varying quality. Some of these will make an important contribution to the national long distance walking and cycling network, identified as a national development in National Planning Framework 3.

**6.7** Figure 6.1 sets out the new routes prioritised for delivery and existing routes that require upgrading, with a focus on cross-boundary routes. These routes connect major settlements, growth areas and transport interchanges. **Local Development Plans will identify and safeguard the land needed to support the delivery of these strategic functional and recreational routes, taking into account the potential future re-use of old rail lines for rail and tram transport. Development near the routes identified in Figure 6.1 should provide good connections to them and contribute towards their delivery and upgrade where appropriate.**

**6.8** In addition to strategic routes, improvements to local and more urban routes, not identified in this plan, will be essential in shifting journeys to walking and cycling. Combined, these improvements will support the development of exemplar walking and cycling friendly settlements as nodes on the regional and national network. **Local Development Plans will safeguard local routes and the route alignments needed to expand the local network. SESplan member authorities will ensure that Local Development Plan Action Programmes and walking/cycling plans set out how these local routes will be delivered.**

Figure 6.1 Strategic Walking and Cycling Routes



## Strategic Transport Improvements

### Strategic Projects

**6.9** A range of transport infrastructure is needed to support the vision of this plan for a better connected place. Column A of Table 6.1 sets out strategic improvements that affect more than one SESplan member authority or are likely to have region-wide benefits. These projects will enable better movement around the region and better connections to and from other city regions in Scotland and the UK. Some of the projects in this column require further appraisal work before a commitment can be made to their delivery, but provided the need is supported by this further work, these projects are expected to come forward with the plan period.

### Potential Strategic Cross-Boundary Projects

**6.10** An ongoing Cross-Boundary Transport Appraisal will identify the additional cumulative and cross-boundary impacts from traffic likely to be generated from development associated with existing Local Development Plan allocations. This will be supplemented by an ongoing transport appraisal of this Strategic Development Plan. Column B of Table 6.1 sets out a potential list of projects that are currently being appraised. When the appraisals are complete, **SESplan member authorities will set out (based on a review of the projects listed in column B of Table 6.1) the specific infrastructure required to mitigate cross boundary movements in a Cross-Boundary Transport Contributions Framework and in subsequent SESplan Action Programmes. This contributions framework will be adopted as Supplementary Guidance within one year of the approval of this plan.**

### Strategic Longer Term and Aspirational Projects

**6.11** Column C of Table 6.1 sets out strategic longer term and aspirational projects that may not be delivered in this plan period but are supported by SEStran and SESplan member authorities. They will improve journey times, reduce congestion, support economic growth and increase the accessibility of towns. Those marked <sup>§</sup> will require further appraisal work before a commitment can be made to their delivery.

**6.12** Information on more local projects and those affecting a single authority is set out in Local Development Plans, the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan. The latter also sets out levels of commitment and funding status.

Figure 6.2 Strategic Transport Improvements

-  Junction New/Improvement
-  Road New/Upgrade
-  Tram Extension
-  Rail Upgrade/Extension
-  A720 Improvements and Orbital Bus
-  Rail Station New/Improvement
-  Longer Term and Aspirational Projects
-  Road Upgrade
-  Rail Upgrade/Extension



Table 6.1 Strategic Transport Improvements

A. Strategic Projects 2018-2030	B. Potential Strategic Cross-Boundary Projects	C. Strategic Longer Term and Aspirational Projects
Edinburgh - Glasgow Rail Improvements	A720 Improvements, including Sheriffhall Junction - Junction Upgrades, Intelligent Transport Systems and Non-Car alternatives	High Speed Rail to England <sup>++</sup>
East Coast Mainline Improvements	Improvements associated with trunk road approaches to Edinburgh including Junction Upgrades and Non-Car Alternatives such as Park and Ride Schemes <sup>+</sup>	A1 Dualling between Dunbar and Berwick Upon Tweed <sup>§</sup>
Edinburgh-Glasgow via Shotts Rail Line Electrification	Edinburgh Orbital Bus and Associated Park & Ride Sites	Borders Rail Extension to Hawick and Carlisle <sup>§</sup>
East Linton and Reston Rail Stations on new Edinburgh-Berwick service	Edinburgh Cross-rail Services <sup>+</sup>	Dunfermline-Alloa Passenger Rail Link <sup>§</sup>
Edinburgh Waverley Capacity Improvements	Strategic Walking and Cycling Routes	Levenmouth Rail Link <sup>§</sup>
Strategic Walking and Cycling Routes		
A801 Improvements		
Tram extensions: York Place to Newhaven*  City Centre to Edinburgh BioQuarter, Newcraighall and Queen Margaret University*  Newhaven to Granton*		

## 6 A Better Connected Place

A. Strategic Projects 2018-2030	B. Potential Strategic Cross-Boundary Projects	C. Strategic Longer Term and Aspirational Projects
Roseburn to Granton* Ingliston to Newbridge*		
A1 Junction Improvements*		
A92 Junction Improvements		
Dunfermline Northern Relief Road & Western Distributor Road		
A701 Relief Road and A702 Link		
Winchburgh Rail Station		
Winchburgh M9 Junction		
M9 J3 Upgrade		
* Not Committed † Not Mapped ‡ National Development § Further Appraisal Required		

**National Transport Developments**

**6.13** Freight by rail, road, sea and air plays an essential role in the regional economy. The most significant of these ports is Rosyth. The freight handling capacity of these ports is essential for North Sea shipping routes. **Local Development Plans will support Increased Freight Handling**

**Capacity of Ports on the Forth and the need for associated infrastructure, safeguarding land where appropriate.**

**6.14** In addition to its role as international gateway, Edinburgh Airport is a hub for wider investment and business development. Enhancement of the airport is a National

Development. **SESplan member authorities will continue to work with the Edinburgh Airport operators to develop enhanced transport options for passengers using the airport, support the delivery of relevant masterplans and ensure that transport infrastructure improvements are integrated with the wider network in the region.**

## Funding Transport Infrastructure

**6.15 SESplan member authorities will prepare a Cross-Boundary Transport Contributions Framework to help fund some of the transport improvements needed to deliver the vision and adopt the framework as Supplementary Guidance to the plan within one year of plan adoption. The framework will focus on mitigating the most significant cumulative and cross-boundary impacts at specific 'hotspots' on the network, as identified in the relevant transport appraisals. A list of potential cross-boundary projects that may benefit from developer contributions is set out in Table 6.1 column B. SESplan member authorities will set out (based on a review of the potential projects listed in column B of Table 6.1) the specific infrastructure required to mitigate cross-boundary movements, once the relevant transport appraisals have been completed.**

**6.16** The Supplementary Guidance will set out:

- The detailed location and boundaries of the contribution zones within which the contributions may be required. These zones will be identified in and around Edinburgh and at those locations along Long -term Growth Corridors where developments are most likely to contribute to the impacts at cross boundary hot-spots;

- The link between development in each contribution zone and the proposed infrastructure improvement that will benefit from contributions generated from that zone;
- The specific infrastructure to be funded;
- The method for calculating the contributions required; and
- How, when and to whom payments should be made.

**6.17** The Contributions Framework will be based on the the following principles:

- It will be informed by the outputs of the Cross-Boundary Transport Appraisal and the Strategic Development Plan Transport Appraisal;
- In principle, it will apply to housing, business, industrial retail and commercial leisure developments within contribution zones that do not have planning consent at the time of the adoption of the Supplementary Guidance. The impacts of requested contributions on the viability of these types of developments will be examined during preparation of the Supplementary Guidance;
- The Framework will complement and not duplicate existing approaches to securing transport contributions from developers

- The Framework will complement and not duplicate other potential funding mechanisms such as City Deal;
- A set of standard charges will be applied to each contribution zone;
- Charges will be in proportion to the scale and impact of development;
- The level of the standard charges will be considered in light of the potential impacts on development viability; and
- It will comply with the tests that apply to planning obligations.

**6.18** These projects will not mitigate all impacts on the strategic transport network. **SESplan member authorities will therefore continue to seek contributions towards the non-cross boundary transport infrastructure needed to mitigate impacts on local networks and infrastructure required to connect development sites with the transport network. Local Development Plans will be accompanied by transport appraisals in accordance with Scottish Government guidance.**



# Glossary

## Glossary

## Glossary

Term	Description
Action Programme	Accompanies the Strategic Development Plan and identifies the how when and by who of delivery of the plan.
Affordable Housing	Housing of reasonable quality that is affordable to people on modest incomes.
Allocation	Land identified in a local development plan for a particular use.
Area of Coordinated Action	Locations identified in National Planning Framework 3 that would benefit from co-ordinated action and masterplanning to deliver low carbon infrastructure.
Areas of Medium to High Flood Risk	Areas where the annual probability of coastal or watercourse flooding is greater than 0.5% (1:200 years).
Areas of Significant Protection (Wind farms)	Areas where wind farms may be appropriate in some circumstances, but where further consideration will be needed to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.
Assisted Area Status	Areas with Assisted Area Status are places where government can offer additional financial support to businesses under European Commission state aid rules.
Brownfield Land	Land which has previously been developed. The term may cover vacant or derelict land, land occupied by redundant or unused building and developed land within the settlement boundary where further intensification of use is considered acceptable.
City Region Deal	Funding mechanism in which contributions and risks are shared between councils and central government and across sectors, based on the improved performance of the regional economy.
Climate Change Adaptation	The adjustment in economic, social or natural systems in response to actual or expected climate change.

## Glossary

<b>Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
Commercial Centre	Examples include out-of-centre shopping centres, commercial leisure developments, factory outlet centres, retail parks or clusters of larger mixed retail units and leisure units.
Cross-Boundary Green Networks	Areas where Green Network Priority Areas cross local authority boundaries and require a coordinated approach to deliver enhancements.
Development Plan	A document setting out how places should change and what they could be like in the future. It stipulates what type of development should take place and where should not be developed. The Development Plan for each of the local authority areas within this city region comprises the relevant Local Development Plan and the Strategic Development Plan (supported by relevant supplementary guidance).
Effective Land Supply	The part of the established housing land supply which is free or expected to be free of development constraints in the period under consideration.
Established Land Supply	The total housing land supply including the effective housing land supply plus remaining capacity for sites under construction, sites with planning consent, sites in adopted local development plans and where appropriate other buildings and land with agreed potential for housing development.
Green Belt	Area of countryside around cities or towns which aims to prevent urban sprawl and inappropriate development.
Green Infrastructure	Green infrastructure is the use of ecosystems, green spaces and water in strategic land use planning to deliver benefits for people and nature and to add value to the economy by supporting sustainable growth. Green infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, road verges, allotments and private gardens, as well as blue infrastructure such as sustainable urban drainage ponds, swales, wetlands, rivers and canals.
Green Network	Green networks are connected areas of green and blue infrastructure.
Green Network Priority Areas	Areas of greatest strategic importance for green network protection and enhancement.

## Glossary

Term	Description
Greenfield Land	Land in a settlement or rural area which has never been developed, or where traces of any previous development are now such that the land appears undeveloped.
Heat Mapping	Mapping showing heat demand and supply of heat used for buildings.
High Speed Rail	Type of rail transport that operates significantly faster than normal trains, typically over 125mph in the UK.
Housing Market Area	Geographical space in which people will search for housing and within which they are willing to move while maintaining existing economic and social relationships.
Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA)	The evidence used as a basis for identifying future housing requirements to ensure suitable land is allocated through development plans.
Infrastructure	Public transport, roads, sewerage, water supply, schools, gas, electricity, telecommunications etc. which are needed to allow developments to take place.
Moratorium	The delay or suspension of an activity or law.
Natura site	Internationally important nature conservation sites designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives.
Place Standard	The Place Standard tool is an online resource providing a simple evaluation framework for evaluating places. It enables people to think about and discuss the physical and social elements of a place in a structured way.
Significant Business Cluster	Broad areas where similar or complementary uses operate.
Spin-outs	Businesses attempting to take ideas and inventions to market.
Supplementary Guidance	Guidance that can be adopted and issued by a strategic development planning authority in connection with a Strategic Development Plan, or by a planning authority in connection with a Local Development Plan. On adoption, any such guidance will form part of the development plan.

## Glossary

<b>Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
Thermal Generation	Steam driven power supply.
Windfall	A site which becomes available for development during the plan period which was not anticipated to be available when the plan was being prepared.
World Heritage Site	A site designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

## Supplementary Guidance

<b>Supplementary Guidance</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Cross-Boundary Transport Contributions Framework	To be adopted within 1 year of approval of Strategic Development Plan
Edinburgh and West Cross-Boundary Green Network Framework	To be adopted within 1 year of approval of Strategic Development Plan
Edinburgh and East Cross-Boundary Green Network Framework	To be adopted within 1 year of approval of Strategic Development Plan

## Photographs



Photographs: 1. Queensferry Crossing Construction (Courtesy of Transport Scotland); 2. Central Scotland Green Network, Fife; 3. Quatermile, Edinburgh; 4. King's Park, Midlothian; 5. A90 Cycle Path (Courtesy of Sustrans); 6. Tram St Andrew Street, Edinburgh.

# SESplan

The Strategic Development Planning Authority  
for Edinburgh and South East Scotland



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THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

  
East Lothian  
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