

7. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK NO.3

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development advising of the publication of the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3), a copy of which was attached to the report.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development advised that the approved NPF3 was published on 23 June 2014 and was a spatial expression of the government's Economic Strategy and set out its plans for infrastructure investment. The council had made three submissions to the call for candidate national developments for inclusion in the NPF3 which were considered to be of strategic importance. The submissions focussed on transport infrastructure, the Edinburgh to Glasgow Rail Improvement Programme and assistance required to deliver the growth agenda.

Together with the Scottish Planning Policy, NPF3 provided a clear national vision of what was expected of the planning system and the outcomes that it must deliver with NPF3 identifying national developments and other strategically important development opportunities in Scotland.

Fourteen national projects had been identified to be delivered by a range of public and private sector organisations and these were summarised in the report. To support their delivery, priorities identified in NPF3 would be taken into account when future spending programmes were developed or reviewed.

Whilst there were no national projects for West Lothian some of the projects would have implications for the area and the Head of Planning and Economic Development provided a summary of these. These included the Central Scotland Green Network and EGIP, with West Lothian being strategically positioned to benefit from these.

It was recommended that the Panel note the content of NPF3.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.