

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

MONITORING REPORT

2014



Falkirk Council
Development Services

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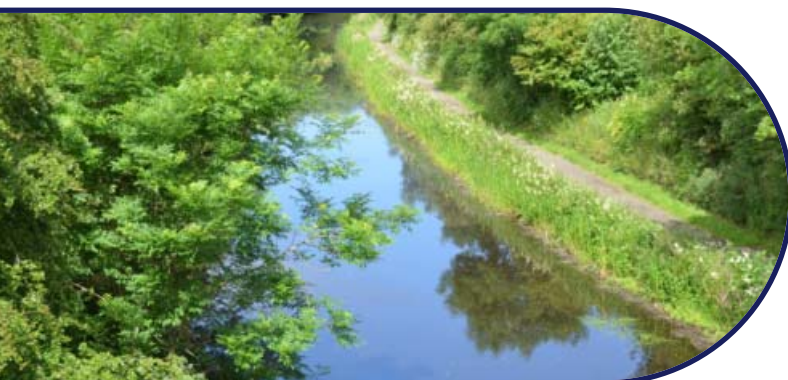
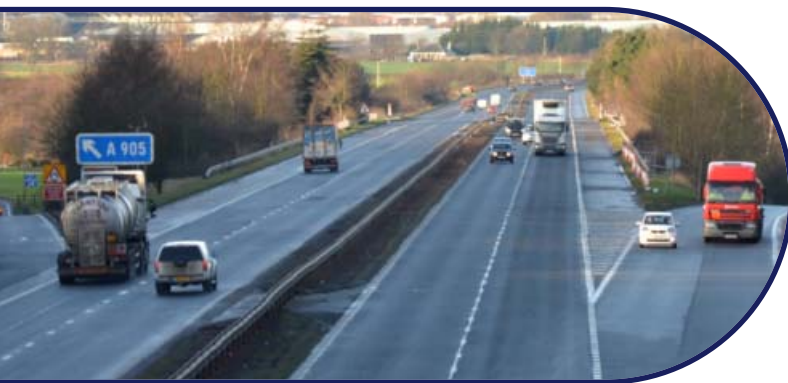
1. Introduction	02
2. Key Trends	04
3. Key Priorities for the Local Development Plan	05
Appendix Monitoring Indicators A Environmental Quality	06
Appendix Monitoring Indicators B Sustaining Communities	20
Appendix Monitoring Indicators C Economic Prosperity	27
Appendix Monitoring Indicators D Sustainable Transport	38

1. INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The Council has been monitoring the development plan for a number of years by assessing progress against 44 key indicators from the existing Structure Plan and Local Plan. The Monitoring Report provides an overview of the demographics, housing, retail, economic and environmental trends within the area. The last full Monitoring Report was produced in 2013.

It is anticipated that the current development plan will be replaced in March 2015 by the Falkirk Local Development Plan (LDP). Thereafter, monitoring of the LDP will continue on an annual basis.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Modernising Planning

Falkirk Local Development Plan

The LDP is a single tier document which provides a broad strategic vision for the future of the area and a detailed framework for planning decisions. The Proposed Falkirk Local Development Plan was published for consultation in April 2013 and submitted to Scottish Ministers for 'Examination' of unresolved issues in February 2014. The outcome of the Examination is expected in December 2014.

National Planning Framework 3

The policy context for the LDP is provided at national level by the National Planning Framework (NPF). This sets out a national strategy for long term development aimed at increasing sustainable economic growth over the next 30 years. The second version - NPF2, identified two developments of national significance for the Falkirk Council area, and the most recent version published in June 2014 - NPF3, adds a further two.

National developments which will impact directly on the Falkirk area in land use terms are:

Grangemouth Investment Zone -

Improvement in port facilities, the local road network, and access to the M9 Motorway, construction of flood defence structures and an enhanced port rail head, to support key infrastructure and industry in Grangemouth and to facilitate wider economic activity. The Council continues to work with partners to deliver the required improvements.

Central Scotland Green Network -

Strategic network of woodland, waterways and greenspaces to bring about a step change in the quality, accessibility, biodiversity and adaptability of the environment in the Central Belt. There is an increased emphasis on active travel projects and the development of derelict and vacant land for sustainable urban drainage systems and allotments. The objectives of the CSGN are reflected locally in the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy.

National Long Distance Cycling and Walking Network -

A strategic national network of walking and cycling routes aimed at significantly improving visitor experiences and tourism, and supporting active travel and increased physical activity. The nationally important John Muir Way passes through the Falkirk area.

Carbon Capture and Storage Network and Thermal Generation -

Grangemouth is identified as one of four locations in Scotland where development is needed to support the delivery of a carbon capture and storage (CCS) network and to establish Scotland as a centre of expertise in this technology. CCS is an important element in the move towards a low carbon economy and a means of tackling climate change. The network plans include the construction of a new thermal generation power station at Grangemouth.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.2 Recent Key Initiatives to enable Placemaking

Falkirk Greenspace Initiative

The Falkirk Greenspace Initiative was launched in 1993 to transform the environment and post-industrial landscape of Falkirk in order to improve the quality of life and recreation opportunities for local residents and to increase the attractiveness of the area to inward investment. Over a 20 year timescale, the Council and its partners have overseen the planting of over 1.4 million trees, the creation/upgrading of 260 km of paths and restoration of a number of derelict sites. The Greenspace Initiative is being taken forward through the Greenspace Strategy which aligns itself with the broader objectives of the nationally important Central Scotland Green Network. The Greenspace Initiative won the gold award at the Scottish Green Apple Environment Awards in August 2014 and was the overall winner of the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning in 2013.

Helix Park and the Kelpies

The Helix Park contract was completed in September 2013. The project has transformed green belt land between Falkirk and Grangemouth into 350 hectares of urban greenspace for a variety of uses including walking, cycling and watersports. Delivered in partnership with Scottish Canals and Central Scotland Green Network Trust, the Helix project connects 16 communities, aims to become a world class visitor destination focussed on the Kelpies, and will provide an attractive backdrop for the proposed 'Falkirk Gateway' development. The Helix came second in the Scottish Green Apple Environment Awards in August 2014.

Falkirk Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

The Falkirk THI, aimed at regenerating Falkirk Town Centre, commenced in November 2013. The project, which has attracted £2 million of Heritage Lottery Funding and £1.6 million from Historic Scotland includes improvements and repairs to key historic buildings, shop fronts, public realm works and repairs to other historic buildings.

1. INTRODUCTION

Investment in Infrastructure - Tax Incremental Finance scheme

The Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) initiative was launched in August 2013. This mechanism, which uses future anticipated non-domestic rates revenues to 'forward fund' essential infrastructure is expected to play a critical role in enhancing the development potential of a number of key sites to secure significant investment and to revive a number of projects which have 'stalled' as a result of the economic downturn. The TIF contribution of £67 million will contribute to a package involving £176 million of infrastructure across the Falkirk area. This will unlock and accelerate £580 million of private investment which is expected to create up to 6,000 jobs and deliver some key national development priorities.

Early 'TIF' assisted works, to improve local connectivity and access to the M9 Motorway, required by NPF2, by upgrading the slip roads and signalling at Junction 6 Earlsgate, Grangemouth are now complete. Forthcoming projects aimed at stimulating inward investment include the provision of advance industrial units at Abbotsford Business Park, improvements to Westfield Roundabout, Icehouse Brae and Junction 5 and the preparation of a new development framework for the Falkirk Gateway and Community Stadium sites. Longer term projects include flood defence works to protect the core industrial area in Grangemouth and improvements to the A801 link between the M8 and M9 Motorways via the Avon Gorge. A potential additional site to the TIF Agreement is the Scottish Enterprise-owned site at Glenberrie which geographically offers an excellent location for inward investment but which has so far attracted limited interest.

An Infrastructure and Development Plan to finalise the programme for future TIF investment is currently being prepared.



2. KEY TRENDS

Despite some signs of recovery, the economic downturn continues to impact on the local economy. This is reflected in a number of key trends:

Population - Continuing increase

The 2011 Census provided a population figure of around 156,000 for the Falkirk Council area. This figure was almost 2,000 more than previously estimated. The population estimate for 2013 is just over 157,000 representing an increase of almost 12,000 since 2001 (just over 8%). This compares with an increase of 5.2% across Scotland as a whole, showing that the Falkirk Council area continues to grow faster than the rest of the country. This growth continues to have implications **for schools and housing**, particularly affordable housing and housing for an aging population.

Housing - Gradual increase in completions and sales

The pattern of new house completions declined from its peak of just under 1,000 during 2003/2004 to a record low of 316 in 2011/12. Although this figure increased to 482 in 2012/13 and despite continued developer interest and activity on a number of sites, there is little expectation that future levels of activity will increase beyond 500 completions per year for the next five years or so.

Jobs - Increase over last year although unemployment remains above average

The overall number of jobs in the Council area for 2013 was 60,700, a welcome increase from the 2012 figure of 58,500. Unemployment figures for June 2014 show that 3% of Falkirk's working age population were unemployed. This represents a decrease over the June 2013 figure of 4.2%, although unemployment in Falkirk is above the Scottish average.

Major Projects - Moving forward

The economic downturn continues to delay implementation of a number of major projects, notably the Falkirk Gateway development and the regeneration of Bo'ness Harbour and Foreshore. The regeneration of Grangemouth town centre remains in focus and construction works in Denny town centre will shortly be underway. Despite the economic climate, a number of key projects have been completed notably the Helix Park and road works associated with improving access to the M9 motorway. The Council continues to progress regeneration projects at Banknock, Tamfourhill and Whitecross and upgrading Falkirk town centre through the Heritage Lottery Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Town Centres and Shops - challenges and opportunities

The 2014 retail floorspace survey revealed a significant rise in vacant floorspace. Although overall convenience provision has increased, mainly due to recent supermarket completions, comparison floorspace has reduced significantly, reflecting the impact of the recession and online shopping. Whilst the District Centres have generally held their own, there has been a dramatic increase in vacant floorspace in Falkirk Town Centre, particularly in the core area. The Scottish Government's Town Centre First principle, the Falkirk THI, the current Town Centre Strategy Review and the Falkirk Business Improvement District (BID) will provide a framework and focus for future investment.

2. KEY TRENDS

Tourism - Major attractions

The Council has seen a considerable growth in tourism over the past two decades - the most recent attractions being the Helix Park, the Kelpies and the John Muir Way. These, together with the Falkirk Wheel, **the Antonine Wall and other attractions plus** an increase in hotel accommodation, have led to a considerably strengthened tourist offering.

Outdoor Access and Greenspace - Increased momentum

The Council maintains its excellent record on **greenspace** and remains a leading, award-winning authority in Scotland. The Council maintains over 450 km of paths throughout the area which link urban areas with the countryside and green spaces of Falkirk. Opportunities for increased access, landscape regeneration, urban open spaces, recreation, active travel and sustainable water management will be taken forward through the Greenspace Strategy.

Environment and Biodiversity

The Council continues to undertake enhancement works to a number of designated and other sites, in partnership with a variety of organisations and community groups, and made possible through a number of funding sources. A third Local Nature Reserve (LNR) was established at Carron Dams in March 2013 and future LNRs are being explored at Skinflats, Langlees and Hallglen.



3. KEY ISSUES FOR THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The overall strategy for the LDP is one of sustainable growth, the key elements of which are:

- ❖ 12 strategic growth areas across the Council area where most future development is likely to be concentrated
- ❖ average of 675 new homes each year required over the next 20 years
- ❖ a diverse portfolio of business sites in five strategic business locations focused on main transport corridors
- ❖ provision of strategic infrastructure measures to support growth
- ❖ a continuing green belt to maintain the identity of settlements
- ❖ a network of vibrant town, district and local centres
- ❖ a multi functional Green Network to support recreational opportunities, active travel, landscape enhancement, economic development and to tackle climate change.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1. Creation of New Woodland/Tree Planting and Overall Woodland Cover

Woodland creation makes a substantial contribution to tackling the climate change, biodiversity and health improvements objectives of the Council.

Tree planting is an important component of the Central Scotland Forest, the Central Scotland Green Network Trust and the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy.

Woodland creation carried out by partners since 1997 has been as follows:

Year	ha Planted	no. of Trees
1997	91.0	227,500
1998	64.0	160,000
1999	58.5	146,250
2000	54.0	135,000
2001	24.0	60,000
2002	19.5	48,750
2003	68.0	170,000
2004	64.0	160,000
2005	29.5	59,114
2006	22.5	47,285
2007	60.5	121,000 (estimate)
2008	8.9	17,775
2009	0	0
2010	14.7	36,800
2011	4.9	12,250
2012	0.3	750
2013	3.3	7000
Total	587.58	1,409,474

Source: Central Scotland Forest Trust

The new Scotland Rural Development Programme is due to be opened in 2015, and a Falkirk Forest Woodland Strategy is currently in development which will help guide/target woodland creation & management in the area. There is likely to be a link between the strategy and grant rates available.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2. Overall Area and Number of Ecological Sites Protected by Local/National Designations

Woodland creation makes a substantial contribution to tackling the climate change, biodiversity and health improvements objectives of the Council.

Designation	Number of Sites	Total area in Falkirk Council area
Special Area for Conservation (Black Loch SAC)	1	2.5ha approx. (overall area of SAC = 108.42ha)
Special Protection Areas (Firth of Forth SPA and Slamannan Plateau SPA)	2	Firth of Forth SPA 1440ha approx. (overall area = 6313.68ha) Slamannan Plateau SPA 10.3ha approx. (overall area = 616.10ha)
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	10	2012.28ha approx. (based on SSSI citations and estimate of Firth of Forth SSSI within Falkirk area taken as estimated area of SPA + 100ha). This also includes approximately 95ha of the new Slamannan Plateau SSSI.
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	3	28 ha - Bonnyfield Nature Reserve 55 ha - Kinneil Foreshore Nature Reserve 18 ha - Carron Dams Nature Reserve
Wildlife Site	62	2101.29ha (including total areas of cross boundary sites)
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	25	345.44ha

Source: Falkirk Council Planning and Environment Unit

It is worth noting that at present there are no accurate figures for the area of some cross boundary sites which fall partly within the Falkirk Council area but in the meantime an estimate has been calculated from the available paper maps. In addition several Wildlife Sites straddle the border with neighbouring authorities. In these cases the overall site area has been used in the absence of details of the area falling within the Falkirk Council boundary.

3. Number of Local Nature Reserves Designated

Falkirk Council's first Local Nature Reserve (LNR) was declared during 2008 at Bonnyfield Nature Park, Bonnybridge on the site of a former quarry. A second LNR was declared in February 2013 at Kinneil Foreshore on the western edge of Bo'ness Management of both these reserves is a collaboration between the Council and a local community group who are actively implementing a number of enhancement projects.

A third LNR was established at Carron Dams in March 2013. This site is actively managed by a partnership of the landowner (Falkirk Council), lessee (Scottish Wildlife Trust) and a Management Group which includes local people and the neighbouring Larbert High School.

The potential for future LNRs is being explored at additional sites such as Skinflats, Langlees (Cobblebrae) and Hallglen.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

4. Loss/Damage to Ecological Sites

Since 2000, two designated sites have been fully lost to development:

Baltic Quay SINC, Grangemouth

Hall Wood SINC, High Bonnybridge

During the monitoring period there has been partial loss of Torwood Mire wildlife site due to energy related development, and a SINC at Rodel Drive in Polmont has been substantially degraded as a precursor to a development application.

It is hoped that through the monitoring process it may be possible to give a better picture of the instances of degradation of designated sites (through development, mismanagement or simple neglect). However, it would still remain difficult to estimate the number of non-designated sites experiencing damage or loss.

5. Number of Sites where additional Habitat Enhancement work has been secured

Sites which have been the subject of improvement or enhancement works since the 2013 Monitoring Report are shown in the table below.

The table is an estimate based on knowledge of work undertaken by a variety of organisations. Other sites may have been enhanced by their owners/managers without the Council's knowledge. The information does give a minimum level of management/enhancement activity.

Future plans for monitoring of locally designated sites should help produce more accurate data. This will include the key aspect of site management as this is equally important in maintaining wildlife habitats as the initial enhancement work.

Site	Designation	Type of Work
Avonglen Quarry	None	Management plan produced. Habitat protection and improvement.
Almond Bing	Wildlife Site	Management plan produced. Species monitoring & scrub control.
Maddiston	SINC	Management Plan produced. Tree planting and treatment of knotweed.
Milnquarter	SINC	Management plan produced.
Wallacestone	SINC	Management plan produced. Grassland management imminent.
Summerford	SINC	Management plan produced. Tree thinning and Rhododendron removal imminent.
Hallglen Haven	SINC	Management plan produced. Scrub control and grassland management imminent.
Bantaskine Estate	SINC	Management plan produced.

Source: Falkirk Council, Planning & Environment Unit

Ecological data and boundary information held for most SINC and Wildlife Sites has been reviewed and updated. This will inform a process of locally designated site review during 2014-15, which will also aim to identify key management and enhancement objectives for each site.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

6. Investment in Enhancing Priority Areas: Town and Village Centres/ Gateways/Transport Corridors/Canal Corridor/Falkirk Green Space/ Urban Regeneration Areas/Conservation Areas)

There is no single agency involved in carrying out enhancement works and these can be spread across a number of organisations.

Falkirk Environment Trust:

Falkirk Environment Trust (FET) remains a principal vehicle for enhancement measures undertaken in Falkirk. Established in 1998 to distribute Land Fill Tax Credits generated by Council landfill activities, FET develops and funds sustainable environmental projects of value to local communities. It does this in partnership with a range of local, regional and national organisations.

Town Centres, Gateways and Greenspace:

A number of public realm improvements in town centres have taken place over recent years including those associated with the improvements to Stenhousemuir, Bo'ness and to Falkirk town centre through the Town Centre Regeneration Funds and the current Falkirk THI. The Council continues to promote regeneration opportunities in Bo'ness and Grangemouth and the first phase of a new town centre for Denny is currently underway. The opening of Helix Park and associated canal works has made a significant contribution towards enhancing the eastern gateway to Falkirk.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

7. Number/Length of Countryside Access Routes

Falkirk Council has a strong record on outdoor access and is a lead authority in the field in Scotland. Falkirk Council's Core Paths Plan was formally adopted in May 2010. This identifies a network of 387 km paths, the key routes for non-motorised access throughout the Falkirk Council area.

The Development Plan plays a major role in providing the land use context for the Council's Outdoor Access Strategy* and will measure progress using the following indicators:

Maintained Access Routes

Falkirk Council maintains in excess of 450km of paths throughout the area. A further 14.2 km are maintained by Callendar Estate/Bespoke Community Development Company.

Upgraded Routes: 2011-12

Forth & Clyde Canal Towpath (by Scottish Canals)	4.9 km
Union Canal Towpath (by Scottish Canals)	1.2 km
John Muir Way - Hallglen	1.3 km
John Muir Way - Blackness to Shore Wood	1.6 km
John Muir Way - Bo'ness Foreshore Links	0.6 km
Maddiston Path Links	0.8 km
Camelon Canal Links	0.3 km
Drumbowie Nature Park	1.1 km
California	0.7 km
Wallacestone	1.1 km
TOTAL	11.8 km

Path Creation Projects: 2013-14

Salmon Inn Road	0.2 km
South Falkirk Links	2.4 km
Tamfourhill	0.4 km
Larbert High Path	0.1 km
Denny High Path	0.3 km
TOTAL	3.4 km

Works by Central Scotland Forest Trust (now Central Scotland Green Network Trust) on behalf of Falkirk Council:

Dorrator Bridge to Camelon Cemetery	0.7 km
Camelon Cemetery path link	0.2 km
TOTAL	0.9 km

Signed Routes

Falkirk Council has signed 291 km of its core path network.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

8. Type, Location and Consents of Mineral Workings

The Structure Plan Report of Survey listed a number of active mineral sites and the updated position for 2014 is set out in the table below. Annual returns on mineral production are not generally made to the Council unless a specific condition of consent requires this information. Information on mineral production on a regional and national basis can be obtained from the United Kingdom Minerals Digest 2013. <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=2930>

Site/Mineral Type	Current situation
Deep-mined Coal	None
Coal Bed Methane	
Sites near Letham	Active exploration - no production yet. Methane gas from coal seams is collected and used to generate electricity. A number of consents granted for coal bed methane exploration around Letham. Application P/12/0521/FUL for development for coal bed methane production at 14 sites has been subject to public inquiry and a decision is awaited from Scottish Ministers. A further application P/14/0038/FUL for an exploration borehole east of Skinflats has been granted.
Opencast Coal	
Greenhill, Avonbridge	Both inactive. Consents F/2001/0252, 06/1215/VRC - not yet in operation.
Aggregates - Sand and Gravel	
Hillhouse Farm, by Hills of Dunipace	Inactive. Site west of M876 motorway near J1 - application granted in 1999 - restoration includes infilling with inert waste, nearing completion. Consent F/10/0186/FUL due to finish including restoration by 31/12/14.
Hard Rock	Pond maintenance.
Boards Quarry, Dunipace	Active. Long established workings - application F/2003/0493 to extend existing working to west. Extension started but not actively worked at present.
Northfield Quarry, Dunipace	Active. Long established workings - certificate of lawfulness granted in 1998.
Cowdenhill Quarry, by Banknock	Inactive. Working ceased. Application P/12/0380/FUL for restoration and new access minded to grant subject to signing a S75 legal agreement. Application across boundary in North Lanarkshire for additional quarrying using proposed access in Falkirk Council area granted.
Drumhead Quarry, Denny	Inactive. Application for the extraction of dimension sandstone P/11/0156/MRL minded to grant subject to signing a S75 legal agreement.
Peat	
Letham Moss, by Airth	Active. Site has certificate of lawful use F/99/0125 granted in Nov.1999.
Fireclay	
No individual workings - produced as part of open cast coal working	None.

Source: Falkirk Council, Planning & Environment Unit

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

9. Biodiversity of Sites, Positive Change in Landscape (in Context of Mineral Site Restoration and Aftercare)

This indicator was introduced in 2006. There are no changes to report for this period.

10. Level of Recycling Activity/Waste Arising

SEPA listed 34 operational waste management sites in the Falkirk Council area in 2012. These include Council recycling centres, transfer stations, metal recyclers and landfill sites. The sites deal with a variety of waste including household, commercial and industrial waste. SEPA lists the annual capacity of these sites excluding landfill as 1.8 million tonnes of waste. The Scottish Government's national target for the recycling of waste collected from households by 2013 was 50%. The household recycling rate was 53% in 2013 with 71950 tonnes or 458kg/person of household waste generated. Business waste generated for 2012 for the Falkirk Council area was 113,382 tonnes. Up to date figures for construction and demolition waste generated are not available.

11. Identified Active Landfill Capacity

Scottish Planning Policy 2014 (SPP) now supercedes Annex B of the Zero Waste Plan. Tables 1 and 2 of Annex B are also now replaced by the Regional Capacity Table - 2011 Data. This identifies additional operational waste management infrastructure capacity required for the Forth Valley area covering Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils. Waste management facilities include landfill sites, commercial recyclers, composting sites and energy from waste plants. The requirement for the Forth Valley area in Table 1 of the Regional Capacity Table, is currently for an additional 200000 tonnes capacity.

Table 2 of the Regional Capacity Table requires a rolling 10 year landfill capacity for the Forth Valley area and the annual SEPA Landfill Capacity Report indicates that this is currently exceeded in the Forth Valley area. Landfill rates have reduced in recent years and this trend continues to influence the capacity requirements. Landfill capacity at December 2012 was over 3.4 million tonnes with a requirement for 2.7 million tonnes.



12. Renewable Energy Generation

There is continued interest in renewable energy as a result of Scottish Government planning policy, the Government's renewable energy targets and moves towards greater energy efficiency.

The financial incentives for wind energy development are delivered through Feed-in Tariff (for smaller-scale projects) and the Renewables Obligation and these incentives continue to generate interest in a range of wind energy development across the Council area. In terms of delivery on the ground, a 13 x 127m turbine scheme at Burnhead Moss is currently under construction, and a 4 x 129m turbine scheme at Todhill, near Torwood, has begun construction recently. A number of single/smaller scale turbines have also been built at Southfield Farm near Slamannan and Glenhead Farm near California.

Falkirk Council produced a Spatial Framework and Supplementary Planning Guidance for Wind Energy Development in May 2013. This identified a single area of search for wind energy development of over 20MW and sets out specific guidance for all renewable energy development, from smaller schemes to larger wind farms. Since the publication of the new SPP, Falkirk Council is currently producing new Supplementary Guidance as part of the Local Development Plan to reflect the change in the approach set out in SPP. This includes a Spatial Framework for wind energy developments of 50m to tip and over, as well as general guidance for all wind developments. The guidance aims to direct wind energy development to appropriate locations within the Council area and provide specific guidance on a range of constraints including landscape, ecology, carbon-rich soils and aviation.

In terms of other renewable energy developments, a hydro and fish ladder scheme has been approved at Fankerton, near Denny, and there has been some interest in small-scale, run-of-river hydro schemes.

Planning consent was granted by Scottish Ministers in June 2013 for a combined heat and power biomass plant at the Port of Grangemouth and Forth Ports are currently seeking to progress the project. It is expected to generate up to 120MW of renewable electricity and up to 200 megawatts thermal (MWth) of renewable heat.

Another proposal is Captain: The Clean Energy Project, formerly the Caledonia Clean Energy Project, which involves the construction of a new 570 MW (net) integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) power plant, also located at the Port of Grangemouth. This proposal is identified in National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) as part of National Development 3, Carbon Capture and Storage Network and Thermal Generation.



13. Air Quality Monitoring Data

The Local Air Quality Management process requires all Councils to review and assess air quality for seven pollutants in their area. As a result of this process Falkirk Council has declared four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Grangemouth AQMA (sulphur dioxide):

This AQMA was declared in relation to industrial emissions. In contrast to previous years the 15-minute objective was met in 2013 at the three monitoring sites in this AQMA. The Tail Gas Treatment unit at the Petroineos refinery was commissioned in August 2013. It is anticipated that this abatement equipment will reduce the number of 15-minute exceedances such that the objective is met. The monitoring in the AQMA will continue to ensure that the compliance achieved in 2013 continues.

Falkirk Town Centre

(nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter) and Haggs (nitrogen dioxide) AQMAs:

These two AQMAs were declared in relation to road traffic emissions. A draft Action Plan was submitted to the Scottish Government in August 2014. As part of this plan, ECO Stars, an environmental fleet recognition scheme has been launched in the Falkirk Council area. The scheme has 37 members who operate 2,500 vehicles in or through the Council area. An extension of the scheme to allow Taxis and Private Hire vehicle operators to become members is under consideration.

Banknock AQMA (particulate matter):

The Cowdenhill quarry ceased operation in July 2011, with the PM10 objectives being met at the monitoring sites in 2013. However, the AQMA and monitoring remain in place due to a new quarry being given planning permission at nearby Tomfyne in North Lanarkshire (with access road through the Falkirk Council area).

The objectives for carbon monoxide, lead, benzene and 1,3 butadiene continue to be met in the Falkirk Council area.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

14. Water Quality Monitoring Data

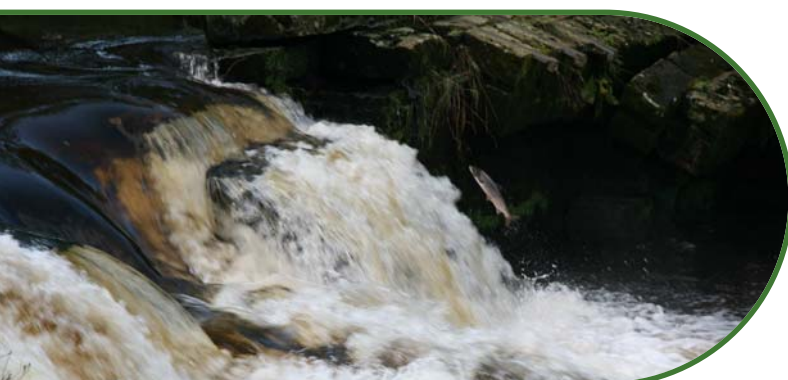
There are over 200km of river, streams and ditches with flowing water in the Falkirk Council area. Regular monitoring undertaken by SEPA and the Council showed that almost 85% of watercourses were in 'fair', 'good' or 'excellent' quality classes during the period 2000 - 2007. Since then SEPA has used a far more extensive classification system in order to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Elements of the classification system now include assessments of fish populations, hydrology, alien species and a biological indicator for nutrients.

SEPA identify 19 water bodies within the Council area. The number of water bodies in each classification for 2008, 2011, 2012 and 2013 is shown below:

	2008	2011	2012	2013
Good	4	2	2	2
Good Ecological Potential	4	4	4	4
Moderate	4	4	6	3
Moderate Ecological Potential	3	2	3	4
Poor	1	3	1	3
Poor Ecological Potential	3	3	2	2
Bad	-	-	-	1
Bad Ecological Potential	-	1	1	-

As can be seen from the table above, there have been a number of year to year changes in classification. A few are due to actual improvements or deteriorations but the majority are due to SEPA either having more comprehensive data than was available in 2008, only being able to start assessing some classification elements after 2008 or as the result of having to apply new standards and/or methodologies as part of the 2013 classification.

It should be noted that some pollution within rivers could have originated upstream of Falkirk and is therefore out of the Council's control.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

15. Annual Level of Vacant and Derelict Land

The Council continues to monitor and record change in the amount of vacant and derelict land in its area and submits annual returns to the Scottish Government.

In terms of broad definitions, vacant land is defined as land within a defined settlement that is considered appropriate for development, has usually had prior development on it and must have an intended new use - either through the development plan or through a planning consent. Derelict land can be located within or outwith settlements and will require rehabilitation to bring it back into beneficial use.

The figures for Falkirk Council since 2002 are as follows:

Year	Total vacant and derelict land (ha)
2002	285
2003	261
2004	252
2005	209
2006	208
2007	147
2008	141
2009	156
2010	140
2011	140
2012	139
2013	152

Source: *Falkirk Council Planning and Environment Unit*

The amount of vacant and derelict land tends to fluctuate, although the general trend has been one of decline. The most significant reduction occurred between 2002 and 2009, when Falkirk recorded a decrease of 52%, the second highest reduction in Scotland. This was a time when many large former industrial sites were re-developed for other uses - principally housing. More recently the period 2007 - 2013 has seen a rise of 4%. This is due mainly to a number of existing vacant sites in Bo'ness, and Allandale Brickworks coming into the Survey.

The Falkirk Greenspace Strategy sets out a vision for managing vacant and derelict land where appropriate, with a view to identifying priority sites where greening/temporary greening measures can be secured. This is with a view to enhancing the landscape setting for future development as well as improving opportunities for biodiversity and recreation.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

16. Area of Contaminated Land/Land Improved

As noted in previous Monitoring Reports, the Council is responsible under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for identifying and monitoring contaminated land, as well as having powers to issue remediation notices. The Council's Contaminated Land Team has an Inspection Strategy in terms of the Act and the latest review of the Contaminated Land Database has identified the following within the Council area:

- 2,721 sites are potentially contaminated (NB not all sites are actually contaminated but have a potential to be so on the basis of historic land uses);
- Within the sites identified, 140 identified as potentially high and medium high risk, 862 identified as potentially medium risk, 1,602 identified as potentially medium low risk and 117 identified as potentially low risk (risk to human health, surface water, ground water, ecological systems or property);
- 141 sites have undergone site and risk assessments in the high and medium high risk category - this encompasses both Council owned and privately owned sites;
- As part of on-going review process, the Council is currently investigating (Phase 1) several potentially high risk sites to ascertain whether Phase 2 intrusive works are necessary. To date over 256 site walkovers (initial Phase 1 work) and 127 Phase 1 desk studies were undertaken as part of the inspection process;
- The investigation work ascertains which of these sites are likely to come under the statutory definition of contaminated land. Clean up costs are then determined, and to date, two sites (Summerford Park at Camelon and Gumboo Path, Denny) have undergone remediation works, with another site at Tamfourhill having undergone partial remediation works in 2007/2008.

It should also be noted that some sites which are potentially contaminated may be treated as part of a development proposal rather than as part of the Council's investigative programme.



17. Number of Conservation Area Appraisals Completed

Conservation Area Appraisals

The programme of Conservation Area Appraisals was completed in 2011. Cyclical updating of all documents will be programmed as part of a Built Heritage Review process in 2015.

There continues to be a considerable amount of activity around built heritage issues which are reported as follows:

Conservation Area Management Plans (CAMPs)

A programme of CAMPS was completed in August 2013 with the approval of the CAMP for Falkirk Town Centre Conservation Area. CAMPs support Conservation Area Appraisals by providing further detailed guidance on planning policy and design standards enabling the controlled and positive management of change in conservation areas. Cyclical updating of CAMPs will be programmed as part of a Built Heritage Review process.

Townscape Heritage Initiative - Falkirk Town Centre

Following on from the successful Bo'ness Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) which delivered over £5 million of improvements to the town centre, a second THI for Falkirk Town Centre is under way. This follows from the award of funding from Historic Scotland from the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) in January 2013 and the award of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in September 2013. Between 2013 and 2018, it is planned to invest around £5 million in the town centre with the aim of helping to regenerate the area through investing in its unique and rich heritage. The funding will be used to:

- Repair and restore the area's important historic buildings and structures;
- Improve the public realm;
- Restore shopfronts to their traditional design;
- Bring vacant historic floorspace back into use;
- Engage the community and help local people learn more about their heritage;
- Provide training and job opportunities linked to the conservation of traditional buildings and historic environments.

Building Stone and Slate Survey

As part of the bid for the Falkirk THI, the British Geological Survey (BGS) completed a survey of the building stones and slates used in traditional properties within the Falkirk Town Centre Area, contained within the Falkirk Town Centre Conservation Area in April 2013. The survey data will help to ensure that any necessary repairs to stone buildings are carried out using appropriate materials. The new information will also add to understanding of the history, character and value of the built heritage in Falkirk.

Article 4 Directions

No new items to report.

Enhancement Projects

A significant number of enhancement projects within Conservation Areas have been delivered over 2013 and 2014 in liaison with resident and local groups and other organisations to enhance and preserve the special character and appearance of the conservation areas. Completed projects between 2013 and 2014 include sign boards for interpretation panels in Dunmore and Letham Conservation Areas, re – painting of the historic well in Dunmore, a Memorial Cairn in Letham and a public realm enhancement scheme incorporating high quality ground surfacing and traditionally detailed bus shelter, bench, bollards, planters and signboard in Muirhouses Conservation Area. Council transport officers installed sympathetically designed conservation area branded bus shelters in Airth, Allandale, Letham and Arnothill and Dollar Park Conservation Areas.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

A-ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

18. Listed Buildings Brought Back into Use/Demolished

The Scottish Canals Estate Listing Review 2013 - 2014 by Historic Scotland resulted in the de-listing of the cottage at Lock 11 and amendments to statutory descriptions for the Union Inn, Portdownie and the former Rosebank Distillery. Historic Scotland changed the statutory address for the property in use by the former Ballantyne Bo'ness Iron Company in December 2013.

The category B listed former Post Office at Vicar Street together with the former Job Centre opened as the Falkirk Business Hub in 2013. The majority of applications affecting listed buildings are for alterations. Since 2013, these have included the conversion of an outbuilding at Carriden Steading and Park Street Annexe window repairs and replacement including sundry works to exterior fabric. The installation of glazed doorways to the entrance of the category A listed former Old Parish Church in Falkirk High Street was approved and completed between 2013 and 2014.

Antonine Wall

The Antonine Wall was designated a World Heritage Site (WHS) by UNESCO in 2008. The Wall comes under the care and management of Historic Scotland and the five local authority partners along its length. The Antonine Wall WHS Management Plan Review was approved in October 2013 and the Draft Antonine Wall WHS Local Action Plan has been prepared for approval in October 2014. All five local authorities are currently at different stages with their respective Local Development Plans. The currently adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance will be reviewed and converted to Supplementary Guidance in due course.

19. Countryside/Green Belt/Prime Agricultural land lost to Development

There were approximately 22 planning consents issued between 2013 and 2014 for development in area defined as countryside in the development plan. This represents a decrease from the number of approvals granted during the period 2012/13. Most consents were for individual dwellings within existing groups, holiday accommodation and equestrian use.



20. Population and Household Numbers by Settlement

Population Change

The changes in the population of Falkirk Council area since 2001 are shown below:

Year	Population	Increase over previous year
2001	145,270	
2002	145,930	+ 660
2003	146,800	+ 870
2004	148,300	+ 1,500
2005	150,130	+ 1,830
2006	151,090	+ 960
2007	152,320	+ 1,230
2008	153,290	+ 970
2009	154,210	+ 920
2010	155,140	+ 930
2011	156,250	+ 1,110
2012	156,800	+ 550
2013	157,140	+ 340

Source: GROS, Crown copyright

For this monitoring report, the table uses the revised mid-year estimates of population. Note that these figures have been adjusted in the light of the results of the 2011 Census which found that the population of the Council area was some 1,870 higher than previously estimated.

The population of the Council area has grown by almost 12,000 since 2001, an increase of 8.2%. This compares with an increase of 5.2% across Scotland as a whole, showing that the Falkirk Council area has been growing faster than the rest of the country. This continues a trend of population increase which began in the early 1990's.

The population in 2013 has significantly exceeded the Structure Plan target figure of 152,000 by 2020. This is partly due to higher levels of net in-migration than predicted (supported by higher levels of new house building) but is also due to an increase in the number of births in the 2000's. As a result of these changes, the new Local Development Plan projects a population of 168,000 by 2034. These figures will continue to be monitored closely.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators B-SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

The population levels for each of the Local Plan settlement areas are shown below. The figures take account of the new population figures following the publication of the Census results.

Settlement Area	2001 Census	2013 Mid-Year Estimate	Change (no.)	Change (%)
Banknock & Bonnybridge	10,574	12,424	+ 1,850	+ 17.5%
Bo'ness	14,037	14,531	+ 494	+ 3.5%
Denny	13,184	13,706	+ 522	+ 4.0%
Falkirk	35,979	38,886	+ 2,907	+ 8.1%
Grangemouth	17,906	17,269	- 637	- 3.6%
Larbert/Stenhousemuir	22,189	25,498	+ 3,309	+ 14.9%
Polmont	19,987	22,308	+ 2,321	+ 11.6%
Rural North	2,653	2,980	+ 327	+ 12.3%
Rural South	8,682	9,538	+ 856	+ 9.9%

Source: *Falkirk Council Research & Information Team, data from National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright*

The table shows that while all settlement areas, except Grangemouth, have seen a growth in population since 2001, the rate of growth has varied. This largely reflects the amount of new development which has taken place in each area. The areas with the highest percentage growth were Banknock and Bonnybridge, Larbert/Stenhousemuir, Rural North and Polmont, but the largest actual growth in numbers has been in Larbert/Stenhousemuir followed by Falkirk and Polmont.

Housing and Households

The number of households and houses in the area for the years 2001 to 2013 are shown in the following table:

Year	Housing stock	Increase over previous year	Households	Increase over previous year
2001	64,625		62,688	
2002	65,433	+ 808	63,521	+ 833
2003	66,478	+ 1,045	64,369	+ 848
2004	67,444	+ 966	65,354	+ 985
2005	68,295	+ 851	65,833	+ 479
2006	68,911	+ 616	66,593	+ 760
2007	69,543	+ 632	67,310	+ 717
2008	70,040	+ 497	67,730	+ 420
2009	70,533	+ 493	68,136	+ 406
2010	71,010	+ 477	68,559	+ 423
2011	71,303	+ 293	68,870	+ 311
2012	71,742	+ 439	69,230	+ 360
2013	72,128	+ 386	69,443	+ 203

Source: *Housing stock - number of properties on the Council Tax Register in September each year*
Households: National Records of Scotland
Note that the household figures have been adjusted in the light of the results of the 2011 Census

The difference between the number of houses and the number of households is largely due to vacant housing stock. Most of the change in housing stock is due to new house building, but there have been some reductions in stock due to demolitions.

The actual number of households in 2013 was actually lower than that projected in the 2007 Structure Plan - 70,292. This is largely due to a substantially reduced level of new house building since the recession which began in 2008, Consequently there have been fewer new households formed.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

B-SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

21. House Completions by Settlement Area and Greenfield/Brownfield Split

House completions by settlement area:

House completions by Settlement Area 2001 - 2013												
Area	01/2	02/3	03/4	04/5	05/6	06/7	07/8	08/9	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
Bo'ness	82	175	116	48	33	58	17	73	12	16	28	8
Bonnybridge/Banknock	113	169	142	151	47	115	63	39	31	32	2	9
Denny	30	114	129	130	118	19	21	21	11	13	2	17
Falkirk	178	189	227	319	313	274	72	86	86	55	41	75
Grangemouth	48	16	21	6	0	0	1	2	105	5	28	0
Larbert/Stenhousemuir	178	152	163	69	147	138	179	170	115	166	96	190
Polmont	177	115	140	153	137	55	70	64	151	135	118	171
Rural North	67	51	56	66	58	1	0	0	0	2	0	4
Rural South	29	14	5	8	12	36	16	9	25	13	1	8
Total	903	995	999	950	865	696	439	464	536	437	316	482

Source: *Housing Land Audit Falkirk Council*

Housebuilding levels peaked in 2003/04 and remained high until 2006. Since then there has been a slowdown in completion rates with figures averaging around 450 units in the last 5 years. This rate is expected to continue and the 2013/14 HLA predicts completion rates of around 500/yr for the next 5 years. Completions in Polmont and Larbert/Stenhousemuir have continued to be most buoyant where a number of larger sites such as at Bellsdyke/Hill of Kinnaird, Overton and Parkhall Farm are under construction. There has been a decline in the construction of smaller flatted developments on urban sites.

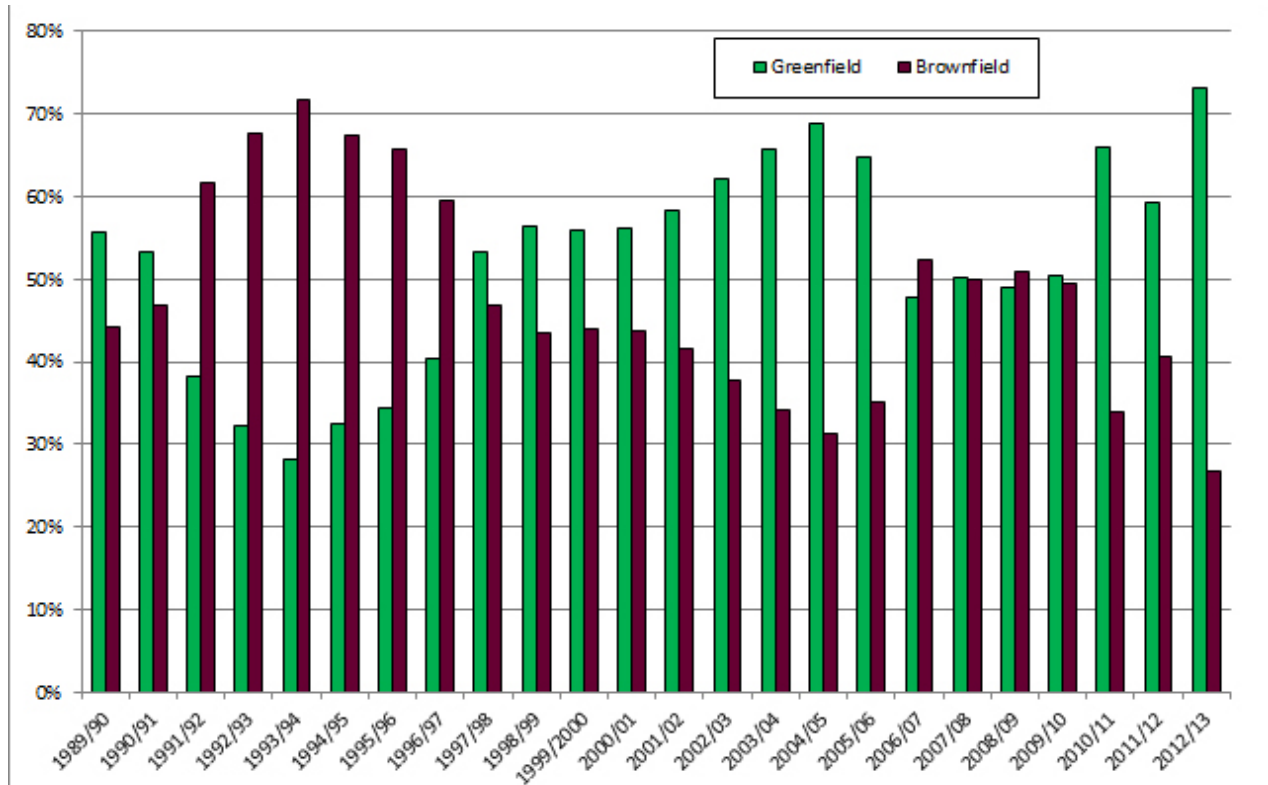


APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

B-SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

Greenfield/Brownfield Split

The relative proportions of new housing built on greenfield and brownfield land for Falkirk Council as a whole since 1989/90 is shown below.



Source: Falkirk Council Research and Information Unit

In 2012/13 the percentage of new housing built on greenfield land was the highest since 1989 at 73.2%. From 2001 to 2013, 60% of new build has been on greenfield sites and 40% on brownfield sites. In the mid 1990's the percentage of new build on brownfield land exceeded that on greenfield land. This position was reversed in the late 90's and early 2000's. From 2006 to 2010 around half of all new build was on greenfield land and half on brownfield, but since 2010/11 the proportion of new build on greenfield land has increased again. These changes reflect the balance of greenfield and brownfield sites available at the time of construction.

The percentage of brownfield sites varies across the Council area. Almost all new build in Grangemouth has been on brownfield sites and the percentage of brownfield sites is also higher in the Falkirk area. However, in Polmont, Rural North and the Banknock and Bonnybridge areas less than 20% of new build has been on brownfield sites since 2001.



22. Housing Land Supply

The annual housing land audit (HLA) identifies the land available for housing and the anticipated phasing of sites for the next 10 years and beyond. The HLA identifies that the Falkirk Council area currently has 4.5 years of effective sites in relation to the Structure Plan requirement.

Year	Effective Land Supply Years 1-5 (No of units)	Established Land Supply Years 6+	Total
2001/02	4,067	3,104	7,171
2002/03	4,153	2,749	6,902
2003/04	3,949	2,270	6,219
2004/05	3,882	2,109	5,991
2005/06	2,994	2,642	5,636
2006/07	3,051	2,890	5,941
2007/08	3,326	2,420	5,746
2008/09	2,560	3,074	5,634
2009/10	2,447	3,067	5,514
2010/11	2,817	8,232	11,049
2011/12	2,129	7,080	9,209
2012/13	2,670	6,026	8,696
2013/14	2,555	5,673	8,228

Source: *Housing Land Audit Falkirk Council*

23. Outputs of Affordable Housing

The yearly output of affordable houses built since 2000 in the Falkirk Council area is shown in the table below. Special needs houses are also included in the figures.

2000/1	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
29	106	113	16	15	26	73	8	38	147	139	145	114	187	1156

Source: *Falkirk Council Corporate & Neighbourhood Services*

During this period there have been 1,156 affordable houses built, the majority of which have been delivered by housing associations and more recently by the Council through its new build programme. A number were also delivered as low cost home ownership units by the private sector either through grant funding or as a requirement of Section 75 planning obligations.

The Council's new build programme is currently as follows:

Merchiston (Phase 1)

- 40 units, completed in June 2014

Parkhall Drive, Maddiston

- 40 units, completed in July 2014

Windsor Road, Falkirk

- 24 units, completed in August 2014.

Merchiston (Phase 2)

- 27 units due for completion in October 2014

Tinto Drive, Grangemouth

- 56 units due for completion in October 2014



24. Quantity and Quality of Open Space/Play Facilities in Settlements

This indicator was introduced in 2006 and represents parks and open spaces containing play provision. Responsibility for provision and maintenance of parks and open spaces has been shared since 2011 between Falkirk Council and the Falkirk Community Trust.

Falkirk Community Trust is responsible for:

- Callendar Park
- The HELIX Corridor (including Helix Park)
- Muiravonside Country Park
- Kinneil Estate
- Grangemouth Golf Course

The Community Trust also manages lettings of pitches and pavilions and operates the kiosks in Dollar Park and Zetland Park.

Falkirk Council's Estates Management Service is responsible for:

- Seven parks in the major built-up areas, including Falkirk, Grangemouth, Bo'ness, Denny, Bonnybridge, Stenhousemuir and Redding, which include a range of facilities.
- 70 local parks in towns and villages throughout the area as identified in the Parks Development Plan.
- Other open spaces. The Estates Management Service is also responsible for grounds maintenance for playing fields, play areas, road verges, school grounds, cemeteries, and a range of other open spaces.

The inventory for total number of play sites is 130. This includes playparks within the above formalised parks listing as well as other public open space sites e.g. in housing estates.

Open Space Strategy

The Council approved an Open Space Strategy in 2010, the need for which is set out in national planning policy guidance. The vision of the Strategy is to secure long-term improvement to the quality of Falkirk's open spaces. The Strategy sets out standards for providing open space, measuring the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces and how best to target investment to ensure that the distribution of open space meets the needs of people and communities throughout the Council area. The Open Space Strategy is timetabled for review in 2015 and preparatory work is under way.

Approval of the Open Space Strategy was followed in 2011 by publication of Supplementary Planning Guidance - 'Public Open Space, Falkirk Greenspace and New Development'. The guidance builds on policies contained within the adopted Local Plan and provides guidance on the Council's requirement for open space provision related to new development. This SPG has recently been reviewed and consulted on. SG13 Open Space and New Development will become statutory Supplementary Guidance once the Local Development Plan is adopted.

25. Loss of Open Space

Every year there are a number of planning consents to extend garden ground into minor areas of open space which are not considered to be of amenity or aesthetic value and which are frequently difficult to maintain. The 2014 period to September has seen six such consents granted.

No significant losses of open space have occurred during 2014. Where planning applications involve the loss of recreational open space, financial compensation will be sought towards qualitative improvements to other open space or recreational facilities in accordance with policy SC12 of the Falkirk Council Local Plan.

26. School Rolls/Capacity

A key consideration in the delivery of a sustainable growth strategy for the Falkirk Council area is the capacity of the Council's schools. While there is adequate capacity in the Council area as a whole to provide places for every pupil, this Council-wide picture masks important constraints and pressure in certain locations which have to be taken into account in considering areas for new development.

The main issues are currently expected to be as follows:

- Recent and continuing growth in the Larbert area will put pressure on primary and secondary school capacity for the foreseeable future. Larbert High School will expand into the adjacent Carrongrange School building in session 2016/17 when this special needs secondary school is rebuilt and opened in Grangemouth. Primary capacity will also need to be extended in Kinnaird Village to accommodate continuing housing growth.
- Rising rolls and large-scale new housing commitments in the Denny/Bonnybridge area are projected to put pressure on the capacity of Denny High School in the long-term and require (developer funded) major extensions at Bankier, Denny and Head of Muir Primary schools. Antonine Primary School is currently being extended (2014) and an extension to the nearby St Joseph's Primary School is planned for 2015/16.
- A new denominational primary school (St Bernadette's) opened in Antonshill in 2012 to reduce pressure on the other denominational primaries in the area.
- The Council's only denominational secondary school, St Mungo's RC High School was replaced in 2009 with extra capacity but is nevertheless expected to experience acute capacity pressures by 2017.
- A new 2-stream replacement primary school will be needed in Whitecross to cater for up to 1500 new houses that have planning permission in principle. This will be developer funded.
- Temporary modular accommodation has been installed at Larbert Village, Victoria, Kinnaird and Maddiston Primary Schools to manage rising rolls.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

C-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

27. Overall Number of Jobs in the Council Area

The number of jobs in the area for the years 2001 to 2013 is shown in the following table.

Number of Jobs 2001-2013	
Year	No of Jobs
2001	57,400
2002	56,400
2003	56,200
2004	58,700
2005	58,800
2006	58,100
2007	59,100
2008	60,700
2009	56,800
2010	55,000
2011	58,800
2012	58,500
2013	60,700

Source: Annual Business Inquiry Employee Analysis (2001-2007), Business Register and Employment Survey (2008-2012) NOMIS Crown Copyright. Note that figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Because these figures are based on a sample survey, year on year comparisons should be treated with caution. The survey changed from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) to the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) in 2008.

Clearly these figures are influenced by factors in the national economy. From 2001, the general trend was for growth in the number of jobs until the start of the recession in 2008 with the decrease in employment from 2008 to 2010 reflecting the economic downturn. The increase in employment in 2011 was almost entirely due to the opening of the Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert that year and the consequent transfer of staff from Stirling. Without those extra jobs, employment in 2011 would have been very similar to 2010. 2013 has seen a welcome increase in employment across several sectors.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators C-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

28. Unemployment Rate

Unemployment between 2001 and 2014 is shown in the following table.

Unemployment June 2001 – June 2014						
Year	Males		Females		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
2001	2,333	5.0%	695	1.4%	3,028	3.2%
2002	2,508	5.4%	716	1.5%	3,224	3.4%
2003	2,309	4.9%	702	1.4%	3,011	3.1%
2004	2,064	4.3%	640	1.3%	2,704	2.8%
2005	1,848	3.8%	604	1.2%	2,452	2.5%
2006	1,896	3.9%	608	1.2%	2,504	2.5%
2007	1,584	3.2%	584	1.1%	2,168	2.2%
2008	1,516	3.1%	538	1.1%	2,054	2.0%
2009	3,131	6.3%	980	1.9%	4,111	4.1%
2010	2,950	5.9%	1,081	2.1%	4,031	4.0%
2011	3,206	6.3%	1,411	2.7%	4,617	4.5%
2012	3,091	6.1%	1,422	2.8%	4,513	4.4%
2013	2,873	5.7%	1,350	2.6%	4,223	4.2%
2014	2,039	4.1%	1,052	2.0%	3,091	3.0%

Source: NOMIS, Crown Copyright – data at June each year

Unemployment fell by around a third from 2001 to 2008. In fact it fell below 2,000 for a few months in 2007/08. However, with the start of the recession in the second half of 2008, unemployment doubled between 2008 and 2009 and increased further to a peak in 2011. This was entirely due to the local impact of the economic downturn.

Since 2011, unemployment has fallen again by around a third, but with greater falls in male unemployment. The decrease has been particularly noticeable in the last year to June 2014. The proportion of the unemployed who are female has increased from 23% in 2001 to 34% in 2014.

In June 2014, Falkirk Council area was ranked with the 13th highest unemployment rate in Scotland out of the 32 council areas which compares to 15th highest in 2001 and in 2007. This represents a deterioration in our relative position. Also, unemployment in Falkirk is now above the Scottish average while for several years it was below both the Scottish and UK rates.



29. Economic Outputs for the Strategic Development Opportunities and Key Canal Corridor Development Opportunities

Strategic Development Opportunities

A feature of the Structure Plan was the identification of a limited number of Strategic Development Opportunities (SDO) - locations aimed at attracting inward investment and stimulating economic growth. The forthcoming LDP promotes five key Strategic Business Locations (SBL) which largely mirror the SDOs but which have been adjusted to reflect changing priorities and circumstances. The SBLs focus on the main transport corridors which will be key drivers for economic growth and regeneration.

The vital role of the TIF mechanism in stimulating future development and growth in many of the SDO's is recognised and summarised earlier in this document.

Progress in locations identified as SDOs in the current development plan are as follows:

Falkirk Town Centre

See section 31 below.

Grangemouth

The chemical, petrochemical, logistics and port related activities in Grangemouth continue to be of major economic importance in both a national and local context. This is recognised by the designation in NPF3 of the Grangemouth Investment Zone and infrastructure priorities identified in the TIF project.

Grangemouth is the focus of interest for a number of renewable energy projects and other infrastructure associated with the continuing drive towards a low carbon economy and ambitious renewable energy targets. Forth Energy is exploring options to proceed with a biomass plant which gained Scottish Government permission in 2013. The need for a new thermal generation power station with an on-site carbon capture plant is identified in NPF3 adjacent to Grangemouth Docks. The 'captured' carbon dioxide will be transported using an existing pipeline to St Fergus in Aberdeenshire for permanent storage offshore.

Consent was granted during 2014 to Ineos for an ethane storage tank and import facility which will utilise imported shale gas from the United States. The facility which produces ethylene will be the largest in Europe.

The need for upgraded flood protection for Grangemouth is recognised in NPF3 and LDP, and is a key priority for TIF funding.

The Council strives through working in partnership with key industry stakeholders to maintain a balance between supporting the economic potential of Grangemouth and reducing impacts on the community and environment.

Middlefield/Westfield 'Falkirk Gateway'

Falkirk lies at the heart of the Falkirk Grangemouth Investment Zone and the Gateway and Falkirk Stadium offer opportunities for a major new commercial quarter on the eastern approach to the town. The adjacent Helix Park, opened in 2013/2014, has the potential to become a major tourist destination, which will complement development at the Gateway. The TIF Infrastructure and Development Plan has highlighted the importance of the Falkirk Gateway and Stadium sites and has prioritised the A9 and A904 road corridor improvements required to support development in this location. The Council intends to appoint consultants to prepare a development framework which will set the context for masterplans to be prepared by developers for the constituent parts of the site.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

C-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

North Larbert/Glenbervie

House building continues on the site of the former Bellsdyke Hospital as part of a wider development of 1700 dwellings and business/employment uses at Bellsdyke and Hill of Kinnaird. The Forth Valley Royal Hospital, adjacent woodland park and Glenbervie Slip roads have all been completed during the last three years marking a significant level of development in the local area.

In addition to the remaining business/industrial sites at Central and Glenbervie Business Parks and the 13ha site at Glenbervie, a business park is proposed at Hill of Kinnaird as part of the approved outline master plan for Bellsdyke/Hill of Kinnaird.

Consideration is being given to the inclusion of the 13ha Glenbervie site within the TIF initiative to cover site enabling works. The site has attracted only limited interest over a number of years and is considered to be an attractive location for manufacturing or distribution operators.

Falkirk Canal Interchange

The Falkirk Wheel remains one of Scotland's top visitor destinations bringing major benefits to the local economy.

Substantial further opportunities exist for development at the Wheel. Scottish Canals continues to examine ways to enhance the visitor experience and the longer term future of the wider site is being considered as part of the proposals for the Tamfourhill/Portdownie site. Progress on this and other canal related leisure, business and housing opportunities is set out later on in this section.

Gilston Park, Polmont

The site occupies a strategic location adjacent to Junction 4 of the M9 motorway and represents a major opportunity for growth and placemaking. Planning consent was granted in October 2012 for a masterplan showing a mixed use development of land for Classes 4, 5 and 6, car showroom, hotel, restaurant and neighbourhood centre. The formation of a new access, a roundabout and dualling of a section of the A803 was completed during 2013 and the details approved for a first phase of development. Developer contributions will be used to fund the installation of signals at Junction 4.

Langlees/Bainsford

Abbotsford Business Park, developed on the site of the former Alcan works, continues to be marketed. As part of the TIF initiative, proposed actions for the Council include the provision of advance industrial units to stimulate development and the completion of site enabling works.

Grangemouth/Kinneil Kerse

Land at Kinneil Kerse to the east of the existing petrochemical complex and allocated for economic development purposes been removed from the Proposed LDP. The site is subject to flooding and its development may have adverse impacts on the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

C-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Manuel Works/Whitecross Special Initiative for Residential led Regeneration (SIRR)

This major regeneration project includes redevelopment of the former Manual Brickworks and adjacent community at Whitecross. The project comprises 1500 residential units, community facilities including a new school, enterprise facilities, employment land and infrastructure. Progress in moving this project forward has been hampered by current market conditions and delays in agreeing terms for the developer contributions associated with the application for planning permission in principle. However, this process is now drawing to a conclusion, demolition of the former brickworks and associated buildings is well underway, proposals for a new access have been approved and details of a Phase 1 development for 49 houses have come forward.

Canal Corridor Development Opportunities

The Council continues to progress projects with partners and other bodies aimed at unlocking the economic, social and environmental potential of the Forth and Clyde Canals. The Proposed LDP identifies the canals as a place-making priority and identifies several key development opportunities between the Falkirk Wheel and the Helix, including Portdownie, Rosebank Distillery and the series of housing and mixed use sites which make up the Falkirk Canal Corridor Strategic Growth Area.

Falkirk Canal Interchange

See above section on SDO's.

Portdownie

Formerly known as Tamfourhill, this project, which is being progressed by the Council and Scottish Canals, forms a major regeneration opportunity within the canal corridor between the Falkirk Wheel and the Helix. A masterplan, which has been approved subject to the completion of a Section 75 planning obligation, comprises a residential-led mixed use development incorporating 525 new homes and a commercial hub centred on a new marina with hotel, leisure and retail opportunities.

Marketing of this regeneration opportunity has been delayed due to the economic downturn. The Council and Scottish Canals continue to consider funding models for intended future development of the site in line with the masterplan.

Rosebank

Following construction of the new build housing element of this regeneration project, the owner, Scottish Canals, agreed a lease with Arran Brewery which envisaged bringing the former distillery buildings back into use as a beer bottling and heritage visitor centre as a phased project.

Unfortunately despite support from Falkirk Council and Historic Scotland this interest did not progress due to Arran Brewery not taking forward a planning application or providing additional sufficient business information. The regeneration opportunity for the former distillery buildings continues to be promoted by Scottish Canals and supported by Falkirk Council.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

C-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Merchiston/Grahamston

The first phase of a development to provide 40 homes for social rent has been completed, with a second phase of 27 units under construction, on the site of the former St Mungo's High School, in the vicinity of the Forth and Clyde Canal. This follows on from completion of the replacement St Mungo's High School in 2009.

Bankside

Regeneration along the south side of the canal at Bankside has not progressed further since the completion of housing on the former Bison site and partial completion on the adjacent former industrial land. Three sites remain allocated for housing in the Proposed Local Development Plan. Of the two on Etna Road, one remains to be completed whilst the site of the former gas works is expected to undergo remediation towards the end of 2014.

River Carron/The Helix

As noted earlier, the Helix has transformed an area of previously underused land for recreational purposes including the creation of a new sea lock at the River Carron and a marine hub for the Lowland canal network. The adjacent canal towpath links the Helix along the Forth & Clyde Canal with the Falkirk Wheel and the Union Canal.

The regeneration of the River Carron, its communities and adjacent land is progressing under the stewardship of the Communities Along the Carron Association (CAAtCA). CAAtCA works with the Council and other partners to secure funding and implement projects.

Reddingmuirhead

Development of this site for housing continues. Plans for a heritage centre, restaurant/bar, boat halt and retail units as outlined in the original masterplan have not progressed.



30. Industrial/Business Land Supply taken up for Industry/Business or Redeveloped for Other Purposes

Continuing the pattern of previous years, the period since 2013 has seen a steady stream of planning consents for development in existing industrial areas including extensions to existing businesses, small scale developments and occasional changes of use away from the traditional class 4, 5 and 6 uses.

There has been a marked reduction in the number of applications for larger scale projects since 2013, although a number of existing consents remain to be implemented. Consent was granted during 2014 for an ethane storage tank for Ineos in Grangemouth.

31. Indicators of vitality and viability for Falkirk Town Centre and the District Centres

Falkirk

There has been no new significant retail space created in the town centre for a number of years, and the economic climate remains challenging for many town centre businesses. This was reinforced by the findings of the 2014 retail floorspace survey, where vacancies in Falkirk Town Centre have dramatically increased since the previous survey in 2009. Planning consent has been granted for a number of changes of use from shops to other uses including offices and hot food takeaways, which may be a reflection of the current difficulties facing retailers, although there are a few instances where retail uses expand e.g. planning consent was granted for a change of use from storage with ancillary retail, to retail and office space at the Direct Flooring premises in Williamson Street. Despite this the town centre continues to attract a diverse range of small independent businesses which are opening at locations throughout the town.

Recently, despite losing TK Maxx to Central Retail Park, Callendar Square has benefitted significantly by the opening of Xercise4less, a major gym, taking all of the top floor of the centre. Callendar Pharmacy are shopfitting in a major development in the former Décor World unit on the High Street. Barrhead Travel expanded their operation by moving from Manor Street to the High Street. The quality of the food and drink offering in the town centre has increased significantly, with many licensed premises investing in their businesses (Behind the Wall won the prestigious Independent Pub of the Year award at the 2014 Best Bar None Scottish finals). KFC opened a new fast food drive through on the site of the former Tesco filling station at the east end of the town centre. Work is also currently under way to open the former Tesco store as a B&M store.

Since the last report, the owners of the Central Retail Park have succeeded in having the terms of the original planning agreement varied to include all retail uses in Phase 1. Trading at the Retail Park appears to remain buoyant with all units presently occupied. A Nando's restaurant opened during 2014 and Starbucks opened a café in the Cineworld cinema.

The Council's decision to build a new Municipal Buildings adjacent to the existing buildings instead of an out-of-town site follows the Scottish Government's Town Centres First best practise philosophy which encourages a wide range of uses which bring people into town centres. Additionally the Council has commissioned consultants to undertake a review of Falkirk town centre and district centre opportunities, due to be completed in late autumn 2014.

The Falkirk Business Hub, created from the listed former Post Office and adjacent 1960s office building, has greatly increased the commercial property offering in Falkirk. Opened in 2013 and including fully serviced office suites, a café bar and wellness centre there are only a small number of suites remaining to let on the upper floor.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators C-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Outwith Falkirk Town Centre there has been one new significant supermarket development since the last report - the opening of an Aldi store of some 1,100 square metres gross adjacent to the Tesco Camelton superstore. A further Class 1 retail units of 1940 square metres gross for Home Bargains is planned to the north of Aldi.

Improving the physical environment of the town centre as a means of maintaining vitality and viability remains a priority for the Council. A number of improvements to the public realm including the Old Parish Church were carried out with funding from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund. As noted in Section 17 above, the town centre has received a further significant boost through conservation led investment and regeneration plans associated with the Falkirk Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) and the Historic Scotland Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) awards. Proposed improvements to the physical fabric of shops and shop fronts which will contribute to the wider economic health of the town centre are now under way. A THI Project Officer and THI Heritage Engagement Officer have been appointed and a town centre project office established at The Hub. Grant documents have been promoted and circulated to all property owners within the THI boundary and a strong level of interest has been secured for general grants and the targeted THI Priority Projects.

The former Falkirk and District Town Centre Management became Falkirk Towns Limited as part of Falkirk Delivers in the early part of 2013. The aim of Falkirk Delivers (Falkirk Business Improvement District) is to deliver a series of projects and services to improve the trading environment of Falkirk town centre to benefit business levy payers, their customers, clients and visitors.

Falkirk Delivers won the prestigious Association of Town & City Centre Management UK national award for developing the evening & night time economy in 2014. Also in 2014 Falkirk town centre also achieved the highest cleanliness rating by Keep Scotland Beautiful in any town it has audited for 2014.



District Centres

The Council continues to progress plans to strengthen and regenerate other centres throughout the area.

Bo'ness

As a result of the economic climate, along with known historic site remediation and structural engineering costs, the original redevelopment proposals for Bo'ness Foreshore involving the Council and development partner ING, became unviable, and ING are no longer involved.

However, Bo'ness Town Centre continues to experience the considerable benefits of the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), which saw a number of key heritage buildings restored, including the Hippodrome Theatre, as well as extensive public realm works. The whole THI project has brought approximately £5m worth of investment to Bo'ness in conjunction with Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Hippodrome continues to act as a destination for local residents and visitors alike and retail vacancy rates in Bo'ness continue to be relatively low.

Denny

As with other commercial schemes, the economic downturn has affected regeneration proposals for Denny Town Centre. Following termination of the previous partnership with Henry Boots Developments Ltd, a Council-led phased option has now commenced. A regeneration masterplan for the town centre area has been approved as well as detailed plans for a first phase to include car park, library, shops and public realm works. Demolition of three of the four 1960's blocks has been completed, all private land acquisitions concluded and a Compulsory Purchase Order put in place over the site. Following the establishment of the temporary retail units for two traders and the library, demolition of the final block will commence in autumn 2014 with construction works for Phase 1 commencing thereafter. With several prelets secured, the Phase 2 foodstore site is currently being marketed. The temporary relocation of the war memorial has been completed in time for 2014 Remembrance arrangements.

Grangemouth

Proposals to regenerate Grangemouth town centre have also been affected by the economic downturn and issues surrounding procurement, and the Council has not progressed with the proposals. Regeneration opportunities for the town are the subject of independent review and consideration as part of the commission with the Council's consultants.

Vacancy rates over the past year have dropped significantly in Grangemouth with even the largest vacant unit being taken - by Store 21.

Stenhousemuir

The redevelopment of Stenhousemuir town centre was completed during 2012. While a number of new units remain unoccupied the overall vacancy rate in the town centre has reduced substantially since 2009.

32. Retention of Retail Expenditure

There is no further information to update the household survey undertaken in 2009.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators C-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

33. New Leisure Development and Employment

The number of planning consents for new leisure development continues to increase despite the difficult economic climate.

Development of various facilities continues at Helix Park. This includes the completion of the visitor centre and consent for use of the lagoon as a wakeboarding centre.

A number of proposals to change the use of existing buildings/space to leisure uses such as gyms, a dance studio, indoor five-a-side football and an indoor paintball arena have been granted in the period since 2013.

The Falkirk Community Trust was granted consent in 2014 to reinstate tennis courts at Zetland Park with a new surface and extend the footprint to bring them into line with Lawn Tennis Association standards. In addition, the Council gained consent for a Multi Use Games Area Court (MUGA) at Head of Muir. Elsewhere, consent was granted for a synthetic turf sports pitch and pavilion at Little Kerse, Grangemouth and cycle related facilities at Larbert High School.

34. Annual Number of Visitors and Overall Visitor Expenditure

Updated figures for 2014 were unavailable for this Monitoring Report.

Updated figures on visitors and visitor expenditure were unavailable for this current report. They are expected at the end of 2014 and will be reported in 2015.

35. Canal Visitor Numbers

Visitors to the Falkirk Wheel		
Period	Average number of monthly visitors	Average number of passengers per boat trip
October 2009 - March 2010	16,689	35
April 2010 - September 2010	59,480	47
October 2010 - March 2011	12,113	22
April 2011 - September 2011	47,583	44
October 2011 - March 2012	15,287	37
April 2012 - September 2012	52,268	45
October 2012 - March 2013	15,678	38
April 2013 - September 2013	51,409	49
October 2013 - March 2014	15,481	37

Source: Scottish Canals



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

C-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

36. Total Population within Hazard Consultation Distances

An estimate of the population contained within the most extensive hazard consultation distances (CD's) at the Calachem site in Grangemouth has been made. The consultation distances are defined to allow the assessment of planning applications in the vicinity of major hazard sites by the Health and Safety Executive. It should be noted that the zones around the site were considerably reduced in 2006 resulting in the population within the CD's being reduced by approximately 2/3rds.

The figures for the three identified zones are shown below. The figures for the new CD's have been revised in the light of the results of the 2011 Census. Currently (2014), there are only two residential properties within the Inner Hazard Zone, so it is not appropriate to provide an estimate of the population. The figures show a small decrease in population in the new CD's from 2001 to 2006, then very little change in the period since 2006.

Population within Hazard Consultation Distances				
Year	Inner	Middle	Outer	Total
Original Consultation Distances				
2001 Census	1,694	11,936	10,325	23,955
2006	1,870	11,492	9,769	23,131
Revised Consultation Distances				
2001 Census	n/a	3,199	6,074	9,273
2006	n/a	3,147	5,882	9,029
2011 Census	n/a	3,161	5,895	9,056
2012	n/a	3,162	5,897	9,059
2013	n/a	3,155	5,817	8,972

Source: Falkirk Council Research and Information Team, based on 2001 and 2011 Census data and mid-year estimates of population from National Records of Scotland, Crown Copyright

37. Change in Inventories of Hazardous Substances

This indicator was introduced in 2006. Since then the number of planning consents granted to companies in Grangemouth to store hazardous materials over and above controlled quantities for each year is as follows:

2007	2
2008	8
2009	1
2010	4
2011	0
2012	5
2013	3
2014	2 (to Sept 2014)



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

D-SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

38. Modal Share for Trips made by Council Residents for Commuting, and Journeys to School and Falkirk Town Centre

There has been no updated information on this topic since the 2009 Household Survey. Relevant data from the 2011 Census is still awaited. The current approved Local Transport Strategy 2014 does not contain mode share targets and there is currently no monitoring framework in place.

39. Total Length of New Pedestrian/Cycle Routes

See section 7 above.

40. Usage of Sustainable Transport Modes

Figures for cycle usage and pedestrian activity have proved difficult to define and have not yet been recorded. Similarly, bus services are largely operated on a commercial basis and passenger numbers are not provided.

Rail Patronage for the stations within the Falkirk Area continues to rise and showed an increase of 0.5% between 2011/12 and 2012/13. This compares with a 2.1% increase between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Year	Total No. of Passengers
1997/1998	1,743,518
1998/1999	1,804,511
1999/2000	1,924,109
2000/2001	1,992,882
2001/2002	2,034,333
2002/2003	2,078,924
2003/2004	2,297,332
2004/2005	2,590,543
2005/2006	2,669,813
2006/2007	2,750,299
2007/2008	2,873,808
2008/2009	2,896,440
2009/2010	2,919,177
2010/2011	2,989,356
2011/2012	3,035,578
2012/2013	3,049,300

Source: First Scotrail



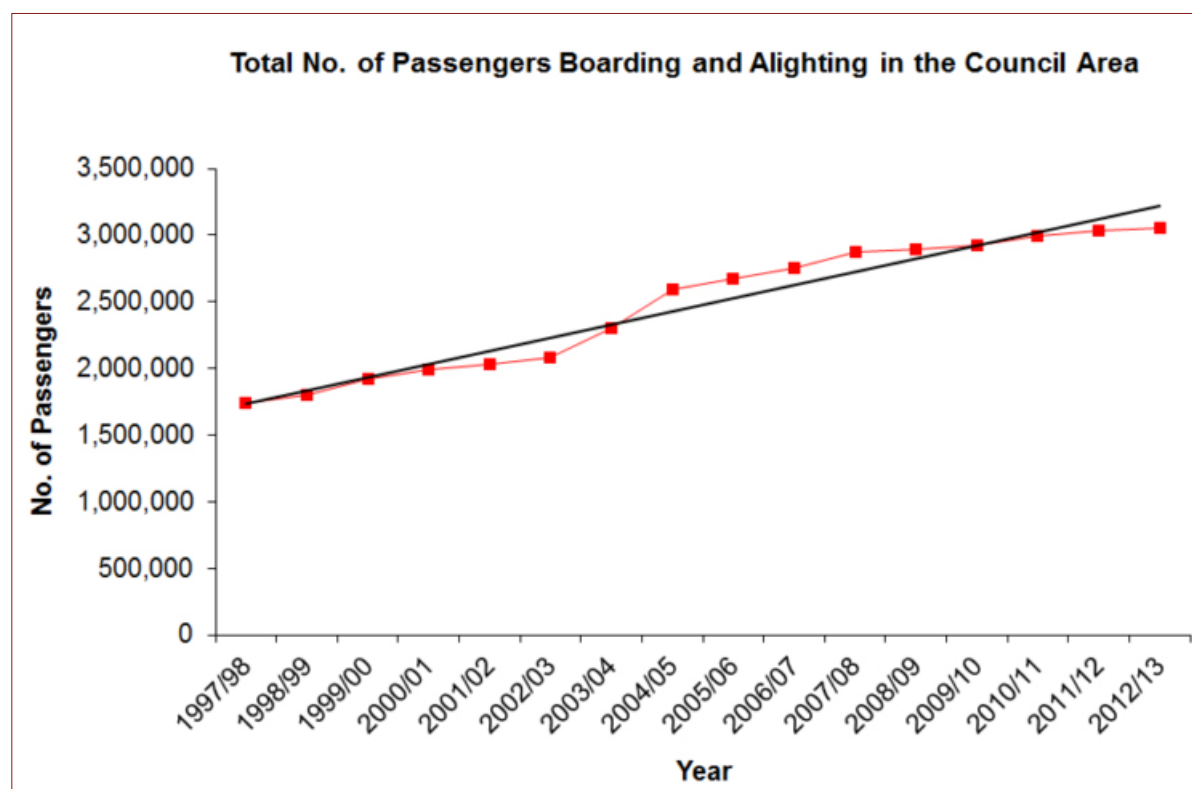
APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

D-SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

The figures below show rail patronage for individual Falkirk stations. The trend line shows an annual average increase of 5.5% between 1997 and 2011 and 4.99% between 1997 and 2013. Unfortunately the ticketing data does not permit Grahamston Station and Falkirk High Station patronage to be separated.

Rail Patronage Figures					
Total Patronage					
Year	Larbert	Camelon	Falkirk (2 Stations)	Polmont	Total
1997/1998	266,751	45,432	1,085,066	346,269	1,743,518
1998/1999	280,637	51,522	1,116,504	355,848	1,804,511
1999/2000	299,741	48,844	1,191,325	384,199	1,924,109
2000/2001	331,471	54,834	1,198,556	408,021	1,992,882
2001/2002	339,912	61,493	1,195,985	436,943	2,034,333
2002/2003	344,145	60,952	1,221,377	452,450	2,078,924
2003/2004	398,287	72,986	1,323,516	502,543	2,297,332
2004/2005	427,937	82,958	1,492,852	586,796	2,590,543
2005/2006	469,311	89,934	1,523,772	586,796	2,669,813
2006/2007	493,107	90,478	1,548,961	617,754	2,750,299
2007/2008	549,268	96,593	1,593,205	634,741	2,873,808
2008/2009	610,166	97,293	1,548,900	640,081	2,896,440
2009/2010	659,899	92,071	1,515,225	661,055	2,919,177
2010/2011	711,469	98,606	1,518,225	661,055	2,989,356
2011/2012	747,710	104,505	1,495,482	687,881	3,035,578
2012/2013	770,462	110,860	1,472,660	695,318	3,049,300

Source: First Scotrail



Source: First Scotrail

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

D-SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

41. Number of Schools Covered by School Travel Plans

Starting in May 2000, School Travel Assessments were carried out for all schools in the Falkirk Council area. These assessments involved consultation with head teachers, pupils and parents/carers. From these consultations nearby paths and roads have been assessed for path improvements, traffic calming, lighting issues, etc. This has led to a number of schools benefiting from route improvements within their community. Falkirk Council is refreshing these assessments to evaluate measures put in place to date and also identify opportunities to further improve the route to school. As of 2014, 25 schools have received updated School Travel Assessments, with a further 14 to be completed by April 2015.

In addition to the School Travel Assessments Falkirk Council's Transport Planning Unit have been involved in promoting active and sustainable travel behaviour such as walking and cycling. Achievements to date are:-

- 48 Schools have taken part in 'Walk to School' activities in 2014.
- In 2014 51 schools now have cycle parking (29 of them with shelters).
- 32 schools have scooter racks.
- 40 schools have been engaged in cycle training.
- 47 schools have taken part in Falkirk Council's School Travel Plan Pack scheme, which rewards schools for participating in activities that encourage and monitor active and sustainable travel. 44 schools have achieved School Travel Plan Awards.
- 66% of primary schools and 63% of high schools took part in May 2014 'hands up' survey. Results for the 2014 survey are:
Primaries: Walk 44% Cycle 4% Scooter/Skate 4% Park & Stride 10% Driven 29% Bus 7%
Taxi 2% Other 0%
High Schools: Walk 38% Cycle 1% Scooter/Skate 0% Park & Stride 3% Driven 22% Bus 34%
Taxi 2% Other 0%

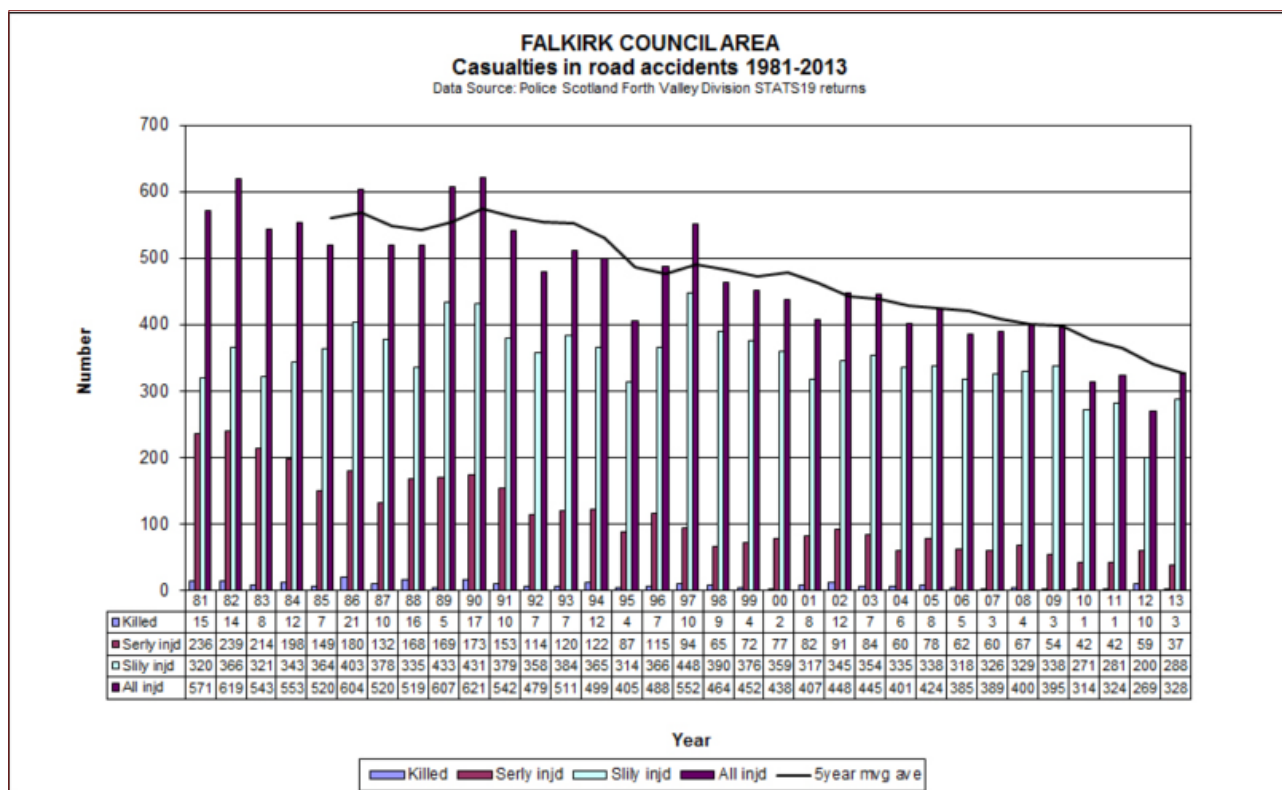


APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

D-SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

42. Number of Casualties Resulting from Road Accidents

The numbers of road accident casualties sustained on roads within the Falkirk Council area between 1981 and 2013 are shown below.



Source: Scottish Police Authority - Forth Valley Division STATS19 returns

Reported road accident numbers continue to decline, as would be expected in an adaptive system, and the trend in casualties reflects that decline. Using moving averages to reduce the effect of year-to-year random variations, it can be shown that the ten year average number of people killed fell from 13 at the end of 1990 to 4 at the end of 2013 (-65%), and that the five year average number of people seriously injured fell from 207 at the end of 1985 to 47 at the end of 2013 (-77%). The five year average number of casualties of all severities has fallen from 561 at the end of 1985 to 326 at the end of 2013 (-42%).

These overall figures, however, will not be allowed to mask less satisfactory trends detectable within them, such as that for road accident casualties aged over 75 years, the five average number of whom injured to the end of 1985 (14) had barely changed by the end of 2013 (13), or the change in the rate of reduction of the numbers of seriously injured casualties, which is discernible in the mid-1990s.



APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

D-SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

At the end of the 2013, the estimated five year average, all casualty rate for Scotland was 248 per 100,000 head of population; for Falkirk Council area, it was 210 per 100,000.

In the meantime, traffic volume on Scottish roads rose from 35,175 million vehicle kilometres (mVkm) in 1993 (the earliest available “All roads” figure) to 44,666 mVkm in 2008 (an increase of 27% in 14 years). It then fell to 43,390 mVkm by 2011 before rising again to 43,549 mVkm in 2012. It seems likely that such changes may have contributed to the changes in accident and casualty numbers, but the relationship is not straightforward.

The 10 busiest stretches of roads in the Council area are, in descending order, M80 (near Haggs), M9, M876, A803 (Camelon Main Street), A876 (to Kincardine Bridge), A904 (Falkirk Road at Falkirk Stadium), B902 (Carron Road), A9 Laurieston Bypass, A803 (Camelon roundabout to Wheel Park and Ride), and B902 (Grahams Road south of Dalderse Avenue).

The Council continues to work towards reducing road accident and casualty numbers, and to making road use as safe as possible within the resources available. A range of activities is involved, from the fundamental one of data analyses through those of site identification, prioritisation, and study, to the implementation of remedial measures.

Remedial measures will involve improvements to junctions, bends, surfaces and lighting, and the provision of better facilities for non-motorised road users. Other remedial measures in the areas of improved data collection, road user education, and traffic regulation enforcement will flow from liaison with interested parties. These include the Department for Transport, Police Scotland Forth Valley Division, and the Scottish Government agency Transport Scotland’s Road Safety Scotland.

43. Parking Rates and Numbers in Town Centres

There have been no further surveys since those carried out in 2006/2007 New surveys are to be carried out in 2015 and will include Falkirk and the surrounding towns in the Council area.



44. Number of Flooding Events

The introduction of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 has removed the requirement for Local Authorities to produce a biennial flood report. Falkirk Council are working with SEPA, Local Authorities and other responsible authorities, to develop Local Flood Risk Management Plans (LFRMP), incorporating Surface Water Management Plans, for the Forth and Forth Estuary Local Plan Districts.

Consultation on Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans is to be delivered through a phased approach beginning December 2014, closing June 2015, to be published in June 2016.

Scottish Water are progressing integrated catchment studies for the Kinneil Kerse, Dalderse and Bo'ness waste water treatment works and the output from the process will inform content of Surface Water Management Plans.

In December 2013 and January 2014, surge and high spring tides combined to generate high water levels in the Forth Estuary. Commercial premises in the Grangemouth Dock area were flooded, but no residential property in Grangemouth was affected. Bunds at Airth failed and the waters from the River Forth flooded the waste water treatment works and agricultural land. No residential property was affected.

Falkirk Council continues to implement measures to reduce flood risk at locations across the Council area and the following are examples of recent schemes

- To reduce flood risk screens have been replaced at the entrance to culverts in Grangemouth (Almond Pow), Maddiston (Manuel Burn), Banknock (Doups Burn), Bonnybridge (St Helens Burn), Woolstoun (Black Burn) and Tamfourhill (unnamed watercourse).
- The construction of attenuation storage on the Chapel Burn, North Broomage, Larbert commenced.
- Permanent pumps have been installed in the surface water facility at Glensburgh, Grangemouth to reduce flood risk, from surcharge in a surface water drain.
- Sediment has been removed and relocated in the River Carron at Checkbar, Bonnybridge to reduce flood risk.
- Ground investigation works in the tidal sections of the Rivers Carron and Avon have been completed. The information gathered will progress design of measures to reduce flood risk in the Grangemouth, Falkirk, Carron and Carronshore areas.
- CCTV surveys of culverts across the Falkirk Council area are ongoing and footage has been studied to assess condition and priority for remedial works. A contract for the reconstruction and relining of a culvert on the Craigend Burn at Maddiston is being developed.
- To reduce surface water flood risk from root infestation and culvert restrictions, remedial works have been completed at Letham Cottages.
- Investigations are ongoing with Scottish Water to reduce surface water flood risk in Slamannan and Crooklandgate, Letham.
- Investigation for a scheme to reduce flood risk at Airth has commenced.

APPENDIX - Monitoring Indicators

D-SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Flood alleviation schemes will be submitted for consideration and priority assessment for inclusion in Local Flood Risk Management Plans for the Forth Estuary and possibly Forth Local Plan Districts. The Scottish Government have yet to confirm the funding mechanism, or budget available for schemes.

Maintenance and inspection of screens and watercourses across the Falkirk Council area continues, in accordance with priority programmes. Watercourse clearance continues and sections of the Grange Burn, Grangemouth, How Burn, Larbert, Almond Pow, Westfield and Grangemouth Flood Relief Channel cleared.



**DEVELOPMENT PLAN
MONITORING REPORT
2014**



Falkirk Council
Development Services