

## 3 Planning Policy

### 3.1 National Policy

#### Scotland's Third National Planning Framework (NPF3)

3.1.1 The NPF3 (Ref. 3.1) provides the Scottish Government with a policy framework that is to be formulated at the local level. The NPF3 states that the purpose of the planning system is to encourage sustainable economic growth. The NPF3 brings together plans and strategies for transport development in Scotland. The vision of the NPF3 is to have improved internal transport links to facilitate growth.

#### Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014

3.1.2 The SPP (Ref. 3.2) sets out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land.

3.1.3 The key planning outcomes for Scotland:

- a successful sustainable place – supporting economic growth, regeneration and the creation of well-designed places;
- a low carbon place – reducing our carbon emissions and adapting to climate change;
- a natural resilient place – helping to protect and enhance our natural cultural assets and facilitating their sustainable use;
- a connected place – supporting better transport and digital connectivity;
- the SPP promotes consistency in the application of policy across Scotland whilst allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect local circumstances. It directly relates to:
  - the preparation of development plans;
  - the design of development, from initial concept through to delivery; and
  - the determination of planning applications and appeals.

### 3.2 Regional Policy

#### Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014

3.2.1 The strategy for the growth of the North East is set out in the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (Ref. 3.3). The main aims of the Strategic Development Plan are to:

- grow and diversify the regional economy;
- tackle our changing climate;

- ensure the area has enough people, homes and jobs to support the level of services and facilities needed to maintain and improve the quality of life;
- protect valuable resources including the built and natural environment;
- create sustainable communities; and
- make most efficient use of the transport network.

### **3.3 Local Policy**

#### **Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017**

- 3.3.1 The purpose of the Local Development Plan (Ref. 3.4) is to create an attractive, prosperous and sustainable place to live, visit and do business by making the best of the existing transport network. The plan identified the need for an improved junction on the A90 at Laurencekirk south of the village.