**FALKIRK COUNCIL LOCAL DEVLOPMENT PLAN 2 (LDP2)**

**STATEMENT OF PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION**

**SG09 and SG12**

**MARCH 2021**

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**STATEMENT OF PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION ON SG09 and SG12**

**1 Statutory Requirement**

1.1 This statement has been prepared in accordance with Section 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as inserted by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, which requires planning authorities to consult on Supplementary Guidance they have drafted, and to prepare a statement setting out the publicity measures they have undertaken, the comments they received and an explanation of how these comments were taken into account.

**2 Background**

2.1 The Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) was adopted on 7th August 2020, and links to 14 supplementary guidance notes (SGs). It is our intention to consult the public on SGs separately from LDP2 to ensure they are given adequate publicity aside from the LDP process. This Statement of Publicity relates to the following two SGs:

 SG09 [Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/planning-building/planning-policy/supplementary-guidance/docs/draft-supplementary-guidance/SG09%20Landscape%20Character%20Assessment%20and%20Landscape%20Designations.pdf?v=202103081018)

SG12 [Listed Buildings and Unlisted Properties in Conservation Areas](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/planning-building/planning-policy/supplementary-guidance/docs/draft-supplementary-guidance/SG12%20Listed%20Buildings%20and%20Unlisted%20Properties%20in%20Conservation%20Areas.pdf?v=202103081018)

2.2 SG09 [Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/planning-building/planning-policy/supplementary-guidance/docs/draft-supplementary-guidance/SG09%20Landscape%20Character%20Assessment%20and%20Landscape%20Designations.pdf?v=202103081018) provides guidance to developers, land managers and decision makers on appropriate actions to ensure the local landscape is effectively protected and enhanced. The updated guidance has been rolled forward from the previous LDP1 version with minimal changes. Updates reflect NatureScot’s updated guidance and digital mapping on Landscape Character Types, changes in terminology of landscape designations, and reference to Scottish Gardens and Landscape Heritage Glorious Gardens study of non-inventory locally designed landscapes in Falkirk.

2.3 SG12 [Listed Buildings and Unlisted Properties in Conservation Areas](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/planning-building/planning-policy/supplementary-guidance/docs/draft-supplementary-guidance/SG12%20Listed%20Buildings%20and%20Unlisted%20Properties%20in%20Conservation%20Areas.pdf?v=202103081018) sets out design aspirations and best conservation practice for the management of change and the preservation and enhancement of historic character and visual amenity in listed buildings and in unlisted properties in conservation areas within the Falkirk Council Area. Again the updated guidance has been rolled forward from the previous LDP1 with minor textual updates only.

**3 Publicity and Consultation Arrangements**

**Advertisements**

3.1 To fulfil the statutory obligations ensuring that adequate publicity was given to the Draft SG09 and SG12, public advertisements were placed in two local newspapers Falkirk Herald (Thursday 21st January 2021) and the Linlithgow Gazette (Friday 22nd January 2021) at the start of the consultation period. An announcement was also made on Falkirk Development Plan Facebook page.

**Document Availability**

3.2 SG09 and SG12 were available to view and download from Falkirk Council’s website. A dedicated webpage for Supplementary Guidance gave details of the consultation period and how to submit comments by email (www.falkirk.gov.uk/sg2).

3.3 Due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 we were unable to make hard copies of SG09 and SG12 available at the usual deposit locations (Abbotsford House, Council Libraries and Advice and Support Hubs).

**Letter to Interested Parties**

3.4 Over 900 key agencies, organisations and individuals were notified by email of the commencement of the consultation process and the availability of SG09 and SG12 on the Council website.

**Consultation Period**

3.5 Comments were invited for 6 weeks from Thursday 21st January and Thursday 4th March 2021.

**4. Comments Received**

4.1 Over the 6 week period, responses were received from the following three organisations:

* NatureScot (SG09, SG12)
* Scotland’s Garden and Landscape Heritage (SG09)
* Historic Environment Scotland (SG09, SG12)

The representations were complimentary in nature and welcomed both SGs. No significant issues were raised. A couple of textual references requiring updating were highlighted.

4.2 No further referral to Falkirk Council Executive Committee was necessary for SG09 and SG12, as authorisation was previously approved that referral back to Committee, prior to submission to Scottish Ministers, would only be required if comments received were more than a minor or technical nature.

 **5. Conclusion**

5.1 SG09 and SG12 outlined in this report have been subject to publicity through mailshots to relevant consultees, local press advertisements, social media announcement and the Council’s website. The documents have been made available on a dedicated webpage on the Council’s website. Both SGs have been well received with only minor consultation comments submitted. Responses and proposed textual amendments are noted in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES – SG09 and SG12**

**SG09 -** [**Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations**](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/planning-building/planning-policy/supplementary-guidance/docs/draft-supplementary-guidance/SG09%20Landscape%20Character%20Assessment%20and%20Landscape%20Designations.pdf?v=202103081018)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Organisation | Para / Section | Comment | Response |
| NatureScot | General | SG09 reads well and makes clear cross-reference to matters that are relevant to it, such as LCA’s and LLCA’s. Supporting maps are clear and boundaries align with changes made to our Landscape Character Assessment in 2019. | Comments noted. |
| Scotland’s Garden and Landscape Heritage | General | Welcome the recognition afforded to all designed landscapes in Falkirk and their valuable contribution to the character of the area, together with the guidelines for their protection. Particularly welcome inclusion of the list of Non-Inventory Designed Landscapes and Sites with Remnant Designed Landscape Features, with details given of those sites which were included in the SGLH-Falkirk Council Glorious Gardens project.  | Comments noted. |
|  | Appendix 3 | Appendix 3 - reference is made to four documents produced by the Forestry Commission. Since 1 April 2020 this organisation in Scotland has been known as Scottish Forestry.  | Comment accepted. This will be corrected. |
| Historic Environment Scotland | General | Reference is made to “SNH’s Guidance on Local Landscape Designations” throughout SG09. However, this was revised and published in 2020 by NatureScot and HES. References should therefore be updated. | Comment accepted. This will be corrected. |

**SG12 – Listed Buildings**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Organisation | Para / Section | Comment | Response |
| NatureScot |  | No Comment |  |
| Historic Environment Scotland | General | Welcome SG12 and in particular the recognition of the new policy framework of the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. It provides a clear and user-friendly introduction to listed buildings / unlisted properties within conservation areas in Falkirk as well as providing relevant advice, guidance and case studies to promote and inform the good management of Falkirk’s historic environment. | Comments noted. |