

SUBMISSION FROM MRS AILEEN CAMPBELL

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL'S A96 CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK  
PARAGRAPH 212 OF SPATIAL PERSPECTIVES SECTION**

With reference to the above document for which public consultation has been requested, I ask that the three committees who are considering this document **remove** Highland Council's A96 Corridor Development Framework section (paragraph 212 of the Spatial Perspectives section) from the National Planning Framework 2 .

My reasons: -

- i) There has been a serious lack of public consultation by Highland Council.
- ii) The population growth projections contained within the document are unsupportable.
- iii) Large scale developments within the A96 corridor would be both environmentally damaging and unsustainable to the Inner Moray Firth area.

In further support I explain that: -

1. It is my opinion that the inclusion of the A96 Corridor Development Framework has been developer led.
2. There is very little evidence of any real economic need for large-scale development.
3. There has been limited public consultation for the A96 corridor, albeit there has been a series of aspirational 'presentations' on behalf of developers. Such 'presentations' or 'charettes' do NOT constitute proper public consultation, involvement and engagement.
4. Highland Council state in Para 212 "that there is a need for 'settlement at Tornagrain'". That statement is not only misleading but also contrary to the Local Plan. The aforementioned proposed 'settlement' is currently the subject of a pending planning application for 3,000 houses with a population density of 10,000 people. I would suggest that is an exaggeration in terms of 'settlement'.
5. Research has found that the population growth figures for the area do not correspond with statistical evidence. My research has shown that the purported local population growth figures are unsupportable.
6. Large-scale developments in the A96 corridor would be prejudicial to the environmental beauty of the area. The Inner Moray Firth area is home to a school of bottlenose dolphins who attract visitors from around the world. The sewage outfall from any large development in the immediate area of their habitat would damage their habitat irrevocably.

The water supply from Loch Duntelchaig and Loch Ashie does not have the capacity to accommodate an additional 10,000 people in the area, the water supply for any large development would involve

'tapping' in to the water supply from Loch Ness. Loch Ness provides mystery, mystique and wonder for tourists throughout the world ... tapping into it for any new proposed 'settlement' at Tornagrain would be detrimental to the whole of that part of Scotland.

I write this letter in the capacity as an individual and as a local, established business owner. On both counts I already feel totally disenfranchised by Highland Council's planning process. Therefore, in conclusion, I would like to quote John Swinney from an official Scottish Parliamentary Report on 13 September 2007 in which he states that "Early and broadly based discussion within local communities and other parties, including business, on the future direction of change in their area is a fundamental part of the reformed planning system..."

Ms A Campbell