

FOREWORD

The Moray Council is a unitary planning authority and is solely responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Structure and Local Plans for its area.

The Scottish Ministers approved the Moray Structure Plan on 12 November 1999 and the Moray Council adopted the Moray Local Plan 2000 on 26 April 2000. Together they form the 'Moray Development Plan', and place Moray as the first authority in Scotland to have a new Development Plan in place, since local government reorganisation in 1996.

The Council has sought to develop its Development Plan through close consultation with those organisations which operate within Moray and by taking an innovatory consultation process to the public. Key aspects of the process have been:

- **The Council has prepared the Structure and Local Plan in tandem so that interested parties have been able to comment on and influence the Plans as they affect one another.**
- **Informal pre-consultation took place through the publishing of the Moray Structure Plan Issues Papers.**
- **The formal consultation process was wide-ranging and, by common consent, successful. The Plans were the first in Scotland to be published in full on the internet, including OS based plans. In addition, the use of public workshops gave rise to a positive response from consultees.**
- **The publication of the Structure and Local Plans under one cover represents the first integrated development plan to be published in Scotland.**

The preparation of the Moray Development Plan has therefore met, in a practical manner, the principles set down within the Council's Local Agenda 21 which seeks community involvement in taking forward its strategies on sustainable development.

I wish to thank all who have contributed to the Plan and look forward to its successful implementation.



Convener, Councillor Eddie Aldridge
Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee

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