

There will be a presumption against development which is likely to sterilise significant workable reserves of mineral resources, prime quality farmland and preferred areas for forestry planting.

POLICY 2: ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES

The Moray Structure Plan Strategy will be supported by: -

- a) protecting international, national and local nature conservation and scenic designations from inappropriate development;
- b) protecting the wider natural environment and local biodiversity from inappropriate development and promote opportunities for environmental enhancement and restoration where possible;
- c) Working in partnership with the Cairngorms National Park Authority and other interested parties to implement the objectives of the National Park.
- d) restricting development within coastal areas outwith settlements to only that in which social and economic benefits outweigh environmental impact;
- e) providing protection from development to the countryside around the towns of Elgin, Buckie, Keith, Forres and Lossiemouth;
- f) conserving and enhancing the areas built heritage resources and their settings.
- g) supporting proposals aimed at regenerating the area's natural and built environment including good design;
- h) providing waste management facilities to deliver Area Waste Plan and National Waste Plan objectives and ensuring that new development is designed to facilitate sustainable waste management practices and promotes the minimisation of waste;
- i) promoting sustainable urban drainage systems(SUDS) in all new developments;
- j) promoting schemes to alleviate flooding in a sustainable and sensitive way using natural ecosystems and features where possible and also restricting development within flood risk areas following the guidance set out in the Risk Framework in SPP7: 'Planning and Flooding' and promoting flood risk management schemes to tackle flooding that threatens existing development and considering development proposals against the Flood Risk Framework set out in Table 5.
- k) safeguarding the area from pollution and contamination,
- l) promoting opportunities for the sensitive development of renewable energy and promoting renewable energy in new development.
- m) safeguarding resources for the production of minerals, preferred forestry areas, and prime quality agricultural land.