



INVERURIE AND PORT ELPHINSTONE

Vision

Inverurie sits in the Don valley and straddles both the River Don and the River Ury. It is located within a Strategic Growth Area and acts as a significant service and retail centre for the Garioch area and beyond. The town centre is dominated by the Town Hall which overlooks the Market Place civic space. Proposals for a transport interchange to be centrally located adjacent to the railway station will allow delivery of improvements to the civic space and the sense of place in the town centre. Cultural and historic assets include a Heritage Centre at the former Loco Works and sites of archaeological interest at The Bass, Broomend Henge, Caskieben and Conyng Hillock. More recent additions to the town include a Health Centre, Uryside Primary School and a Community Campus to replace Inverurie Academy.

Town centre retail and leisure facilities along with availability of employment opportunities within the town, make Inverurie an attractive place to live and work. The town has numerous open and green spaces providing health and wellbeing opportunities for the community, with notable examples including Davidson Park, Ury Riverside Park and the Keithhall Estate. Preserving and enhancing existing open space as well as the inclusion of adequate open space as part of new developments is important in maintaining a sense of place. There is substantial scope for local nature conservation, particularly at Kinkell Belt.

The lack of cemetery space, allotment gardens, road capacity and sewer infrastructure is a concern to the local community. There remain significant development opportunities within and adjoining the town centre, at Uryside/ Portstown and within the Crichton area, where development will help address traffic congestion issues through the provision of a new grade separated interchange on the A96. The Scottish Government is committed to dualling the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen by 2030. Delivery will have a major impact on traffic movements in the Inverurie area. There is a need for improvements to the safety and accessibility of town centre routes and improvements to connectivity between the residential communities and employment locations. Inverurie is defined as an Integrated Travel Town by the Local Transport Strategy and an active cycle route is being planned between Inverurie and Aberdeen.

Expansion of pedestrian and cycle links to surrounding communities at Kintore, Kemnay and Oldmeldrum is an aspiration. Further development of services and infrastructure at Ury Riverside Park will allow expansion of recreation and conservation opportunities. There are local aspirations for uses that will complement the town as a tourist destination, particularly accommodation, recreation and tourist facilities and for development which supports greater self-sufficiency for the settlement.

Enhancement of social cohesion and sense of place is a key priority as well as creating well-integrated, coherent forms of mixed-use development, opportunities for new regular and integrated public transport links, walking and cycling facilities, indoor community spaces, leisure activities and public art. New development is expected to contribute to and enhance a sense of community cohesion within the town, should address the lack of accessible single storey homes and create opportunities for self-build, with smaller scale housing developments to help rebalance the housing mix.