

Welcome

This event aims to inform the local community and interested parties of proposals to develop a replacement prison at land to the south of Inverness Retail Park. The proposals are being put forward by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) who are charged with replacing the existing prison at HMP Inverness with a new fit-for-purpose prison development on the selected site.

The Scottish Prison Service are preparing a Planning Permission in Principle Application (PPP) for this new prison facility. This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) forms part of that application process. It sets out what is being proposed and offers the public the opportunity to comment on the proposals at this stage, prior to a planning application being lodged.

The Scottish Prison Service are here today together with members of the wider project team. Please take some time to read the material on display and speak to members of the project team. There are feedback forms available which you can complete now or take away. Please be aware that comments received as part of this process are not formal representations to the Planning Authority. Once an application is lodged, there will be a formal response period within which representations can be made directly to the Planning Authority.

Information

It is our intention to build a new prison which can provide suitable accommodation for the people of the Highlands, Islands and Moray areas, keeping them closer to their families and their communities. Whilst the design capacity for the existing prison is 103, the average prison population since 2010 has been 130 with a maximum peak population of 160. Given the Prison Inspectorates criticism of overcrowding within HMP Inverness the new prison will be designed to address this issue. However, it will still be one of Scotland's smallest prisons. To ensure that the site has the necessary resilience and the relevant utilities have adequate capacities, certain initial studies have been based on a maximum design capacity of 200 places. Work is progressing to finalise the appropriate number of prisoner places. We will build on our experience of designing and operating facilities which best support efforts to reduce reoffending and equip offenders for reintegration into their communities.

The new prison will replace the old, it will predominantly accommodate adult male untried and convicted adults. The majority of convicted prisoners will be serving short sentences, up to a maximum of 4 years.

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

The Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan contains details of the future SPS Estates Strategy involving the commitment to replace unfit prison capacity with modern facilities which contribute to a Safer Stronger Scotland.

It is proposed to replace the existing prison at HMP Inverness (located within a central residential area in Inverness) with a new fit-for-purpose prison development on the selected site at Eastfield Way. The characteristics of the existing prison site does not support redevelopment alongside normal prison operations and therefore a new site is required for the planned development of HMP Highland. The existing prison has been criticised for overcrowding and lack of facilities in various reports by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland and these issues will be addressed as part of the proposals. The following new supporting facilities will be provided at the new prison:

Gates, Visits building, Family Help Hub, Regimes, Facilities Building, Community Integration Unit & External Car parking



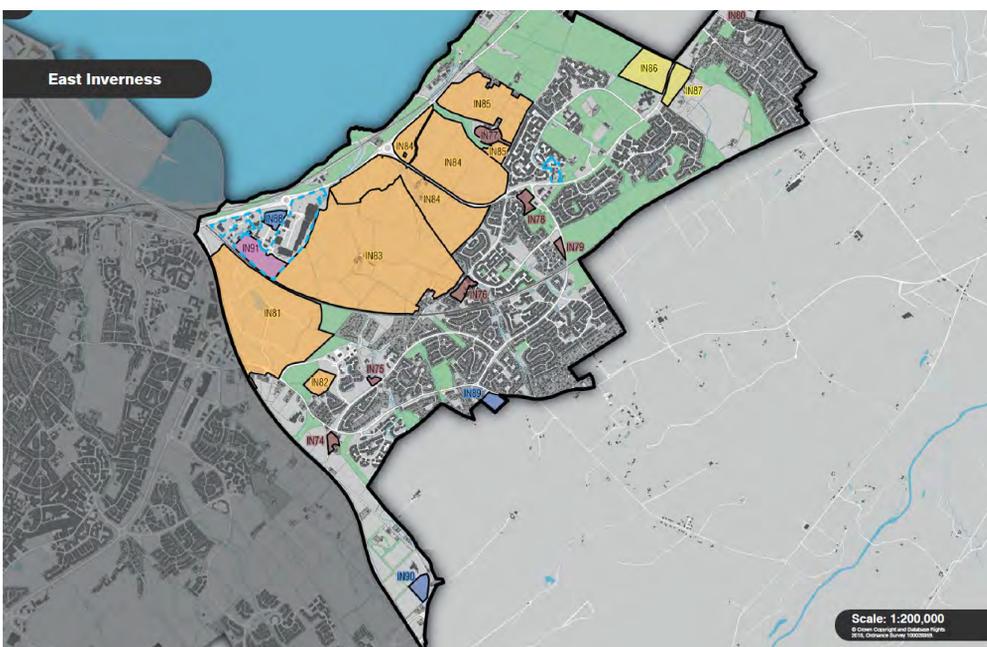
PLANNING STATUS

The site is currently zoned for retail development in the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2015. Site 'IN91' is being proposed for development as a new prison facility. This application will therefore represent a departure from the Development Plan.

A prison facility is a Class 8A use under the terms of The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Order 1997. The provision of secure residential accommodation uses are not typically identified within Local Development Plans however it is generally accepted that such a use sits well with business, general industrial and storage/distribution uses (Classes 4, 5 & 6).

When determining the application, determination shall be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This is in line with the provisions of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The Scottish Prison Service will prepare a statement to justify in policy terms why this proposed development should be granted planning consent.

Planning Permission in Principle is intended to establish the principle of development on the site. If consented, a series of conditions may be attached to that consent. The Scottish Prison Service will then submit further detailed application(s) to address these, but the principle will have been established.



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