4. Site Details

Name of the site	Former Blockworks site, Straik Road, Elrick, Westhill (part	
(Please use the LDP name if the	of BUS designation)	
site is already allocated)		
Site address	As above	
OS grid reference (if available)	NJ 82287 06526	
Site area/size	0.86 hectares	
Current land use Former blockworks site, currently unused		
Brownfield/greenfield Brownfield		
Please include an Ordnance Survey map (1:1250 or 1:2500 base for larger sites, e.g. over 2ha)		
showing the location and extent of the site, points of access, means of drainage etc.		

5. Ownership/Market Interest

5. Ownership/Market Interest		
Ownership (Please list the owners in question 3 above)	Findlay, Glover & Macaulay Ltd	
Is the site under option to a developer?	No	
Is the site being marketed?	Yes	
is the site being marketed:	 The site has been marketed extensively to office and industrial occupiers; however there has been no take-up of the site to date. Findlay, Glover and Macaulay Ltd bought the site in December 2012 and the site has been marketed since early 2013. Proposal of Application Notice ref: ENQ/2013/0621 validated on 3rd April 2013 as Heads of Terms were agreed with an oil service company for an HQ office and workshops through our selling agent CBRE before the deal fell through. Proposal of Application Notice ref: ENQ/2014/0059 validated on 14th January 2014 as on shortlist of tenders to relocate an oil service company to a new HQ office and warehouse facility through our selling agent CBRE before the deal fell through. Proposal of Application Notice ref: ENQ/2014/2605 validated on 20th November 2014 for 3 office pavilions on a speculative basis which received planning approval ref: APP/2015/0556. There has been no take-up of interest in the office pavilions due to downturn in oil sector and over supply of office space in the marketplace. The back part of the site has also been marketed as 7 industrial units as per the layout approved under planning approval ref: APP/2017/0370 but with no take-up to date. 	

6. Legal Issues

Are there any legal provisions in the title deeds	No
that may prevent or restrict development?	

(e.g. way leave for utility providers, restriction	If yes, please give details
on use of land, right of way etc.)	-
Are there any other legal factors that might	No
prevent or restrict development?	
(e.g. ransom strips/issues with accessing the	If yes, please give details
site etc.)	-

7. Planning History

use give details ation discussions have been held with the ervice in relation to a potential change of use
ation discussions have been held with the
tial development. The response from the ervice was that due to the BUS designation of Supporting Justification would be required to be site for non-employment uses. The Planning so recognised the site is highly sustainable roximity to local services and the town d that redevelopment of this brownfield site befit the amenity of the local area.
ovide application reference number(s), n(s) of the development, and whether ermission was approved or refused: /0552 – Erection of 4-storey hotel (on adjacent oved in January 2016. /0556 – Erection of 3 office buildings in March 2016. /0370 – Erection of 7 industrial workshop oved in September 2017.
ovide Previous 'Call for sites'/'Bid' reference
currently allocated for any specific use in the OP? Yes you wish to change the site description and or? Yes

8. Proposed Use

Proposed use		Housing/employment/mixed use/other (please	
		specify): Housing	
Housing	Approx. no of units	To be confirmed	
	Proposed mix of house	Number of:	
	types	Detached: To be confirmed	
		Semi-detached: To be confirmed	
		Flats: To be confirmed	
		Terrace: To be confirmed	
		Other (e.g. Bungalows): To be confirmed	
		Number of:	
		I bedroom homes: To be confirmed	

		 2 bedroom homes: To be confirmed
		 3 bedroom homes: To be confirmed
		• 4 or more bedroom homes: To be confirmed
	Tenure	Private/Rented/Self-Build/Supported houses (e.g.
	(Delete as appropriate)	for elderly)/Other (please specify): The site has the
		potential to provide private housing, affordable
		housing, or sheltered housing for over 55's for
		example.
	Affordable housing	25%
	proportion	
Employment	Business and offices	Indicative floor space:
	General industrial	Indicative floor space:
	Storage and distribution	Indicative floor space:
	Do you have a specific	
	occupier for the site?	
Other	Proposed use (please	
	specify) and floor space	
	Do you have a specific	
	occupier for the site?	
Is the area of each proposed use noted		-
in the OS site plan?		

9. Delivery Timescales

0-5 years ✓
6-10 years
10+ years
0-5 years ✓
6-10 years
+ 10years
Yes
If yes, please give details (e.g. bank facility,
grant funding, secured loan etc.)
Bank facility
No
If yes, please give details and indicate how you
might overcome them:
N/A

10. Natural Heritage

Is the site located in or within 500m of a nature conservation site, or affect a protected species?

Please tick any that apply and provide details.

You can find details of these designations at:

- https://www.environment.gov.scot/
- EU priority habitats at <u>http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index</u>
 .isp
- UK or Local priority habitats at <u>http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/a</u> <u>dvice-and-resources/habitat-definitions/priority/</u>)
- Local Nature Conservation Sites in the LDP's Supplementary Guidance No. 5 at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldp

RAMSAR Site	
Special Area of Conservation	
Special Protection Area	
Priority habitat (Annex 1)	
European Protected Species	
Other protected species	
Site of Special Scientific Interest	
National Nature Reserve	
Ancient Woodland	
Trees, hedgerows and woodland	
(including trees with a Tree	
Preservation Order)	
Priority habitat (UK or Local	
Biodiversity Action Plan)	
Local Nature Conservation Site	
Local Nature Reserve	
If yes, please give details of how you pl	an to

If yes, please give details of how you plan to mitigate the impact of the proposed development:

N/A

Biodiversity enhancement

Please state what benefits for biodiversity this proposal will bring (as per paragraph 194 in Scottish Planning Policy), http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/004538
27.pdf) by ticking all that apply. Please provide details.

See Planning Advice 5/2015 on Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement at:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/19598/20 15_05-opportunities-for-biodiverstyenhancement-in-new-development.pdf

Advice is also available from Scottish Natural Heritage at:

https://www.snh.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/natural-heritage-advice-planners-and-developers and http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/.

Restoration of habitats	
Habitat creation in public open space	✓
Avoids fragmentation or isolation of	
habitats	
Provides bird/bat/insect boxes/Swift	✓
bricks (internal or external)	
Native tree planting	✓
Drystone wall	
Living roofs	✓
Ponds and soakaways	✓
Habitat walls/fences	✓
Wildflowers in verges	
Use of nectar rich plant species	
Buffer strips along watercourses	
Show home demonstration area	
Other (please state):	
16 1 1 1 1	

If yes, please provide details:

The items above will be considered at the detailed design stage.

II. Historic environment

Historic environment enhancement		
Please state if there will be benefits for the	No	
historic environment.	If yes, please give details: N/A	
Does the site contain/is within/can affect any	Scheduled Monument or their	
of the following historic environment assets?	setting	
Please tick any that apply and provide	Locally important archaeological site	
details.	held on the Sites and Monuments	
You can find details of these designations at:	Record	
• http://historicscotland.maps.arcgis.com/a	Listed Building and/or their setting	
pps/Viewer/index.html?appid=18d2608ac	Conservation Area (e.g. will it result	
<u>1284066ba3927312710d16d</u>	in the demolition of any buildings)	
• http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/	Inventory Gardens and Designed	
• https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrp	Landscapes	
ub/master/default.aspx?Authority=Aberd	Inventory Historic Battlefields	
<u>eenshire</u>	If yes, please give details of how you plan to	
	mitigate the impact of the proposed development	
	N/A	

12. Landscape Impact

12. Landscape Impact	
Is the site within a Special Landscape Area	No
(SLA)?	If yes, please state which SLA your site is located
(You can find details in Supplementary	within and provide details of how you plan to
Guidance 9 at	mitigate the impact of the proposed
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldp)	development: N/A
SLAs include the consideration of landscape	If your site is not within an SLA, please use
character elements/features. The	this space to describe the effects of the site's
characteristics of landscapes are defined in	scale, location or design on key natural landscape
the Landscape Character Assessments	elements/features, historic features or the
produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (see	composition or quality of the landscape
below) or have been identified as Special	character: The site is accessed off Straik Road to
Landscape Areas of local importance.	the north. The access road and roundabout are
SNH: Landscape Character Assessments	in-situ to serve the recently built Hampton by
https://www.snh.scot/professional-	Hilton hotel. To the north (opposite the site) lies
advice/landscape-change/landscape-	the residential area of Elrick. To the immediate
<u>character-assessment</u>	west there is the residential mobile-home park,
SNH (1996) Cairngorms landscape	and further west there are office buildings which
assessment	are screened by mature trees. The Westhill
http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/	Business Park lies to the south and east of the
<u>review/075.pdf</u>	site and includes offices and a workshop. The site
SNH (1997) National programme of	is enclosed on all sides by 2m high palisade
landscape character assessment: Banff	fencing. The site has been cleared and is ready
and Buchan	for development. There is also 2,000sqm approx.
http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/	of landscaped public open space and an area of
review/037.pdf	public art already provided as part of the wider
SNH (1998) South and Central	masterplan development of the site.
Aberdeenshire landscape character	
assessment	
http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/	

review/102.pdf	

13. Flood Risk

Is any part of the site identified as being at	No
risk of river or surface water flooding within	If yes, please specify and explain how you intend
SEPA flood maps, and/or has any part of the	to mitigate this risk: N/A
site previously flooded?	_
(You can view the SEPA flood maps at	
http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm)	
Could development on the site result in	No
additional flood risk elsewhere?	If yes, please specify and explain how you intend
	to mitigate or avoid this risk: N/A
Could development of the site help alleviate	No
any existing flooding problems in the area?	If yes, please provide details: N/A

14. Infrastructure

a. Water / Drainage Is there water/waste water capacity for the proposed development (based on Scottish Water asset capacity search tool http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/business/Connections/Connecting-your-property/Asset- Water Yes		
proposed development (based on Scottish Water asset capacity search tool http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/business/Conn Waste water Yes		
Water asset capacity search tool http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/business/Conn Waste water Yes		
http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/business/Conn Waste water Yes		
ections/Connecting-your-property/Asset-		
Capacity-Search)?		
Has contact been made with Scottish Water? Yes		
If yes, please give details of outcome		
in the Scottish Water network	has been	
established.		
Will your SUDS scheme include rain gardens? To be confirmed		
http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org/c Please specify: This will be consi	idered at the	
<u>ampaigns/greener-gardens</u> detailed design stage.		
b. Education - housing proposals only		
Education capacity/constraints Please provide details of any known	own education	
https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/pare constraints. Is additional capacit	y needed to	
nts-carers/school-info/school-roll-forecasts/ serve the development? No		
Has contact been made with the Local No		
Authority's Education Department? If yes, please give details of outcomes.	come: N/A	
c. Transport		
If direct access is required onto a Trunk Road No		
(A90 and A96), or the proposal will impact on If yes, please give details of outcomes	come: N/A	
traffic on a Trunk Road, has contact been		
made with Transport Scotland?		
Has contact been made with the Local Yes		
Authority's Transportation Service? If yes, please give details of outcome		
They can be contacted at contact has previously taken pla		
transportation.consultation@aberdeenshire.go Transportation Service, however	•	
v.uk discussions on the proposed re-	development of	

	the site for residential use is still to take place.
Public transport	Please provide details of how the site is or could be served by public transport: The site lies immediately on a main public transport corridor which is the A944 Straik Road. There are bus stops for the X17, 218 and 220 routes to and from Aberdeen right outside the site boundary on both sides of the road. The X17 bus service from Elrick to Aberdeen runs every 15 minutes.
Active travel (i.e. internal connectivity and links externally)	Please provide details of how the site can or could be accessed by walking and cycling: The site is within walking and cycling distance of Westhill town centre.
d. Gas/Electricity/Heat/Broadband	
Has contact been made with the relevant utilities providers?	Gas: Yes If yes, please give details of outcome(s): Gas is already available on site. Electricity: Yes If yes, please give details of outcome(s): Electricity is already available with a newly built substation on site. Heat: Yes If yes, please give details of outcome(s): To be confirmed Broadband: Yes If yes, please give details of outcome(s): BT Open-Reach Fibre Optic is already on site.
Have any feasibility studies been undertaken to understand and inform capacity issues?	Yes Please specify: There are no known capacity issues to serve a residential development on this site.
Is there capacity within the existing network(s) and a viable connection to the network(s)?	Yes Please specify: There are no known capacity issues to serve a residential development on this site.
Will renewable energy be installed and used on the site? For example, heat pump (air, ground or water), biomass, hydro, solar (photovoltaic (electricity) or thermal), or a wind turbine (freestanding/integrated into the building)	Yes If yes, please specify the type of renewable energy technology(s), if it is to provide electricity and/or heating (i.e. space heating and/or hot water), and the scale of provision (To supplement off-site connection all the way to 100% energy provision (off-grid)): The developer is likely to include renewable measures such as air-source heat pumps, solar PV panels, or other measures to be confirmed.
e. Public open space	
Will the site provide the opportunity to enhance the green network? (These are the linked areas of open space in settlements, which can be enhanced through amalgamating	Yes Please specify: There is already 2,000sqm of public open space provided as part of the approved masterplan for the wider site which

existing green networks or providing onsite	includes the area of public art in front of the
green infrastructure)	Hampton by Hilton hotel.
You can find the boundary of existing green	
networks in the settlement profiles in the LDP	
Will the site meet the open space standards, as	Yes
set out in Appendix 2 in the Aberdeenshire	Please specify: The site can provide at least
Parks and Open Spaces Strategy?	120sqm of usable public open space per
https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/6077/	dwellinghouse.
approvedpandospacesstrategy.pdf	
Will the site deliver any of the shortfalls	Not applicable
identified in the Open Space Audit for	Please specify: N/A
specific settlements?	
https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities	
-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/open-	
space-strategy-audit/	
f. Resource use	
Will the site re-use existing structure(s) or	No
recycle or recover existing on-site	If yes, please specify: N/A
materials/resources?	
Will the site have a direct impact on the water	No
environment and result in the need for	If yes, please provide details: N/A
watercourse crossings, large scale abstraction	
and/or culverting of a watercourse?	

15. Other potential constraintsPlease identify whether the site is affected by any of the following potential constraints:

Aberdeen Green Belt	No
https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20555/appendix-3-	
boundaries-of-the-greenbelt.pdf	
Carbon-rich soils and peatland	No
http://www.snh.gov.uk/planning-and-development/advice-for-	
planners-and-developers/soils-and-development/cpp/	
Coastal Zone	No
https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20176/4-the-coastal-	
zone.pdf	
Contaminated land	No
Ground instability	No
Hazardous site/HSE exclusion zone	No
(You can find the boundary of these zones in Planning Advice 1/2017	
Pipeline and Hazardous Development Consultation Zones at	
https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-	
policies/planning-advice/ and advice at	
http://www.hse.gov.uk/landuseplanning/developers.htm)	
Minerals – safeguarded or area of search	No
https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldpmedia/6_Area_of_search_and	
<u>_safeguard_for_minerals.pdf</u>	
Overhead lines or underground cables	No
Physical access into the site due to topography or geography	No
Prime agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3.1) on all or part of the site.	No
http://map.environment.gov.scot/Soil_maps/?layer=6	

'Protected' open space in the LDP (i.e. P sites) www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldp and choose from Appendix 8a to 8f	No
Rights of way/core paths/recreation uses	No
Topography (e.g. steep slopes)	No
Other	No

If you have identified any of the potential constraints above, please use this space to identify how you will mitigate this in order to achieve a viable development: -

16. Proximity to facilities

How close is the site to	Local shops	<400m: There is a Spar
a range of facilities?		Convenience Store adjacent to
		the west boundary of the site.
	Community facilities (e.g. school, public hall)	<400m
	Sports facilities (e.g. playing fields	<400m
	Employment areas	<400m
	Residential areas	<400m
	Bus stop or bus route	<400m
	Train station	>lkm
	Other, e.g. dentist, pub (please specify)	<400m to Westhill town centre which includes dental practice, pubs, hotels, shops, and many
		other local services.

17. Community engagement

Has the local community been given the	No
opportunity to influence/partake in the design	
and specification of the development proposal?	If yes, please specify the way it was carried out
	and how it influenced your proposals: -
	, ,
	If not yet, please detail how you will do so in
	the future: There is the potential to hold a
	public consultation event if that is considered
	appropriate to the scale of development being
	proposed at the detailed design stage.

18. Residual value and deliverability

Please confirm that you have considered the	I have considered the likely 'residual value' of
'residual value' of your site and you are	the site, as described above, and fully expect
confident that the site is viable when	the site to be viable:
infrastructure and all other costs, such as	
constraints and mitigation are taken into	Please tick: ✓
account.	
If you have any further information to help demonstrate the deliverability of your proposal, please provide details.	

19. Other information

The site is a brownfield development opportunity with the settlement of Westhill. There is currently planning permission for office development on both the front and back parts of the site granted under ref: APP/2015/0556, and industrial workshop development on the back part of the site granted under ref: APP/2017/0370. The site has been marketed extensively for 5 years to office and industrial occupiers but to date there has been no take-up of the site for these employment uses. It is evident from speaking to the agents of prospective occupiers that the downtown in the oil and gas sector in recent years has been the primary reason for the lack of interest in developing the site for employment uses.

The site has been lying vacant and ready for development since the previous blockworks buildings were cleared in 2016. Pre-application discussions were held with the Planning Service in relation to a residential development on the site. The Planning Service acknowledged that the site has excellent credentials in terms of sustainability given it is brownfield land within walking distance of Westhill town centre and immediately adjacent to a public transport corridor. However, the Planning Service noted that because the site is contained within the BUS designation a Supporting Justification would be required to redevelop the site for non-employment uses.

There are currently plans being drawn up to redevelop the site for residential use on both the front and back parts of the site. It is likely that the housing tenure will be a mix of smaller private apartments and an element of affordable housing or all affordable housing on the sites. There is also the potential to include sheltered housing for over 55's, Given these plans for residential use are likely to come forward within the lifetime of the next LDP, it would help to facilitate the development (for residential use) if the zoning of the site was changed to remove the BUS designation. The site should instead be included as "white land" within the settlement boundary.

The current BI policy in the LDP states that land within a BUS designation will be retained for employment uses unless there is a constraint on the site whereby there is no reasonable prospect of it ever becoming marketable for business development or it is poorly located for alternative use. In the case of the former blockworks on Straik Road, the site has already been marketed for 5 years and there has been no take-up of the site for employment uses. The use of the site for an alternative use (i.e. housing) will benefit the local community as it will see a visually-prominent vacant and derelict site in Westhill redeveloped to meet local demand for affordable housing. The redevelopment of the site for housing will not prejudice the strategic land requirement given there is 0.95 hectares of business land available within the Arnhall/Silvertrees Business Park (BUS) and a further 5.65 hectares of business land available within the Arnhall Gateway Business Park (OP2) both of which are immediately available within the Employment Land Audit 2017.

It is recognised that there are a mix of uses surrounding the site including a hotel, offices, a workshop, and residential areas. We are confident that a satisfactorily level of amenity can be provided for new occupants of the proposed housing development; and the layout, siting and design of the new development can respect the character and amenity of the neighbouring uses. These are matters that are currently being considered and will be addressed through a detailed planning application submission.

The removal of this site from the BUS designation and reclassification of the site as "white land" within the settlement boundary of Westhill does not mean that the site cannot or will not be redeveloped for employment uses. It will simply help to smooth the planning application process if and when a detailed proposal comes forward for residential development on the site which

looks the most likely scenario at the moment given the lack of take-up from office / industrial occupiers to date combined with the notes of interest from prospective housing developers.

Please tick to confirm your agreement to the following statement:



By completing this form I agree that Aberdeenshire Council can use the information provided in this form for the purposes of identifying possible land for allocation in the next Local Development Plan. I also agree that the information provided, other than contact details and information that is deemed commercially sensitive (questions I to 3), can be made available to the public.

