

Local Development Plan Scheme
Aberdeenshire Council
January 2018



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Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

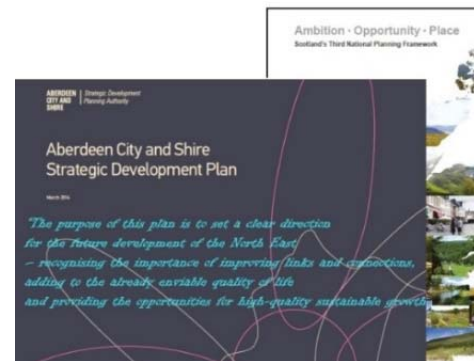
1. Introduction

Every year each Planning Authority publishes a Development Plan Scheme setting out the timetable for Development Plan preparation. The Scheme includes a Participation Statement, which sets out how and when people can get involved in the Plan preparation. The 2018 Development Plan Scheme (DPS) sets out the programme of work associated with the preparation of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021, when this work is planned, what is likely to be involved at each stage and opportunities for communities and/or representatives to contribute to the Plan making process. In preparing this DPS the Planning Authority also meets its obligations under 20B of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

The Development Plan for Aberdeenshire is currently made up of the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014 and the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017.

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The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014 is the most recent statement on the direction that has been set by Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council for the future development of the North East.



This Strategic Development Plan (SDP) will be reviewed and will likely be replaced by June 2019. The review of the Main Issues Stage for the 2019 SDP has already started.

The current Local Development Plan is the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan, adopted in June 2017. It covers all of Aberdeenshire, except for that area which is within the Cairngorms National Park which has its own Local Development Plan. The 2017 Plan is supported by 9 elements of Supplementary Guidance (see Appendix 1).



2. The Development Plan Programme

The purpose of the Development Plan Scheme is to set out the Authority's programme for reviewing their current Local Development Plan (LDP) and for preparing the next LDP. It outlines what is likely to be involved at each stage and how people can engage and contribute to the preparation process.

Figure 1 below shows the key stages and broad timing for bringing forward the 2021 LDP. As can be seen in the diagram presented on the contents page the Development Plan process is very much a cyclical process, involving plan making, implementation and review. In Figure 2 this is set out in a linear way.

Figure 1: Planned Timescales for 2021 Local Development Plan

SDP Timescale		2017			2018				2019				2020				2021				2022
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
PREPARATION OF SDP																					
Proposed SDP Published																					
Proposed SDP submitted to Scottish Ministers																					
Approval of SDP by Scottish Ministers (Two years from approval)																					
LDP Timescale		2017			2018				2019				2020				2021				2022
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
PREPARATION OF 2021 LDP																					
2021 LDP PRE-MIR AND DRAFT PLAN PREPARATION																					
Engagement with Community Councils on application of Place Standard to identify key issues																					
Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping																					
Review Baseline and policy standards since 2016 to identify policy changes required																					
Engage with Elected Members to identify key issues																					
Engage with Key Agencies to identify emerging opportunities and constraints																					
Commission investigatory work with the Education Authority to identify how "development planning" could be used as a topic to deliver parts of the national curriculum in secondary schools																					
Call for, and evaluation of, development bids																					

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PREPARATION OF 2021 LDP

Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Report

PUBLISH MAIN ISSUES REPORT AND DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN

Publish draft plan with "Main Issues" Report

Consult on Main Issues Report

Evaluate MIR and draft Proposed Plan comments

CONSIDER RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT PROPOSED PLAN

Publish and consult on the Proposed LDP2021

Consider submissions to the Proposed Plan

SUBMIT PROPOSED PLAN TO THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS

Submit Proposed Plan for examination

Examination in Public to Proposed Plan (6 months assumed)

Consider recommendations to EIP report

ADOPT LD2021 (Latest adoption date shown)

	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Report					█	█														
Publish draft plan with "Main Issues" Report						█														
Consult on Main Issues Report							█													
Evaluate MIR and draft Proposed Plan comments								█	█	█										
Publish and consult on the Proposed LDP2021											█									
Consider submissions to the Proposed Plan											█	█								
Submit Proposed Plan for examination													█							
Examination in Public to Proposed Plan (6 months assumed)													█	█	█					
Consider recommendations to EIP report															█	█	█			
ADOPT LD2021 (Latest adoption date shown)																█	█	█		█

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The Planning Authority is required to prepare a Development Plan at least within a year of the previous Development Plan Scheme. The 2017 Development Plan Scheme was approved by Infrastructure Services Committee on the 2 February 2017.

To ensure SDP strategies are implemented quickly, Scottish Ministers expect LDPs to be adopted within two years of the approval of the SDP. Thus to deliver the LDP to timescale a degree of twin-tracking in Plan preparation is required and is set out in Figure 1. The proposed SDP timeframe shown in Figure 1 identifies a latest approval date for the SDP in June 2019. This therefore sets the requirement to have the Aberdeenshire LDP 2021 to be adopted by June 2021.

While Circular 6/2013 suggests that the LDP Main Issues Report (MIR) might be published on the basis of a Proposed SDP, it is better to allow time for consideration of responses before publishing the 2021 Main Issues Report for consultation. This will allow cross-cutting/common issues to be considered fully before publishing the Main Issues Report.

Figure 2 opposite sets out the key stages associated with the preparation of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. In the early stages of 'Monitoring and Review' of the Adopted LDP early engagement is critical to both identifying and agreeing the key issues prior to publication of the Main Issues Report (MIR). When published, the MIR will then form the basis for wider public consultation.

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Figure 2 - LDP Stages: Activity (and Outcomes)



3. How to get involved – Public Participation Statement

This Development Plan Scheme (DPS) will be published in libraries, on the internet and attention drawn to it through Twitter and via press releases.

The principles of community engagement will be benchmarked against “National Standards for Community Engagement” (see Appendix 2), and will take account of responses received through our ‘How was it for you?’ survey conducted in 2016. Groups invited to complete this survey were Community Councils, members of the public who previously engaged with LDP process, and developers. The Citizens Panel also gave views on our processes. Further, we have engaged with Area Committees to get their views on Development Plan preparation and related engagement processes.

A key finding was that **early** and **broad** engagement was very important to all surveyed.

Some of the suggestions gleaned from our ‘How was it for you?’ survey was that we should:

- Increase public awareness of the processes and its stages;
- Advertise more the opportunities for engagement;
- Use more simple language;
- Inform those who took a part on the outcome of their participation;
- Improve the Council website as it is difficult to navigate;
- Improve public awareness (potentially use different venues);
- Provide simpler explanation of the process, when, what, why?
- Drop-in session helpful, should be continued and expanded.

Earlier focus on settlement planning rather than policy has been requested by Elected Members when taking forward the future engagement process. This will contribute to our promotion of the ‘Place Standard’ through our Community Planning engagement process.

Identifying and overcoming barriers to engagement will be a key challenge for the Planning Authority. We will identify opportunities with the assistance of our Community Planning partners and Elected Members. We know that working with young people is a key outcome from the participation process. It is hoped that by working with Aberdeenshire schools we can better engage with young people.

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4. Key Work Programme tasks for 2017- 18

Stage	Key Activity	Timing	Involved
Pre- Main Issues Engagement	Brief Community Councils of the forthcoming programme of plan development	September 2017	Planning Officers/ Community Planning
Pre- Main Issues Engagement	Scope Main Issues using the 'Place Standard' Tool at Community Council meetings	October and November 2017	Planning Officers/ Community Planning
Pre- Main Issues Engagement	Seek development site "bids" from the development industry and landowners	January – March 2018	Planning officers
Pre- Main Issues Engagement	Engage with Elected Members to identify their key issues through workshops and seminars	January - February 2018	Planning officers / Elected Members
Pre- Main Issues Engagement	Engagement with Key Agencies regarding emerging Opportunities/ Constrains	January – February 2018	Planning officers & Agencies
Pre- Main Issues Engagement	Workshops /Seminars with Elected Members and Community Councils (Area/Ward level)	May - June 2018	Elected Members & Community Councils
Pre- Main Issues Engagement	Present Main Issues Report and Draft Proposed Plan to Area Committees	August 2018	Elected Members
Pre- Main Issues Engagement	Presentation of Draft Proposed Plan to Infrastructure Services Committee	October 2018	Elected members
Post- Main Issues	Consultation on the Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan	November 2018 - December 2018	General Public

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Stage	Key Activity	Timing	Involved
Post- Main Issues	Evaluate responses to the Main Issues Report	January - July 2019	Planning Officers
Post- Main Issues	Revise Draft Proposed Plan to produce Proposed Local Development Plan.	August - October 2019	Planning Officers / Elected members
Post- Main Issues	Consult on Proposed Local Development Plan and Main Issues Report	November 2018	Planning Officers

Early monitoring to gauge the effectiveness of the Development Plan and its delivery can contribute to, as well as facilitate, early engagement. Review of the evidence base that underpins the current Plan is also key to identifying changes that might affect delivery of the Plan.

These changes might be political, economic or environmental.

How well the Development Plan framework is delivering to earlier agreed outcomes within the Plan and related Action Programme will also help identify and agree future 'action' required. There will also be a need to consider fully the Council's Single Outcome Agreement and that the Plan assists delivery.

Some review of baseline information can be anticipated from the review of the current SDP and the baseline underpinning this Plan and early stages in preparing the 2019 SDP.

5. Stakeholders and Consultees

In addition to those people who have previously advised that they wish to be advised on Development Plan preparation we will also ensure that information on Local Development Plan progress is sent to:

Community Groups

- All Community Councils
- Auchenblae Community Association
- Auchnagatt Community Association
- Barthol Chapel Community Association
- Belhelvie Community Trust
- Boddam and District Community Association
- Buchan Development Partnership
- Buchanhaven Heritage Trust
- Crimond Community Association
- Cruden Bay Community Association
- Drumlithie Community Association
- Fetterangus Community Association
- Fraserburgh Development Trust
- Formartine Partnership
- Garioch Partnership
- Hatton Community Association
- Huntly and District Development Trust
- Kincardine Development Partnership
- Kincardine O'Neil Community Association
- Laurencekirk Villages in Control
- Marr Area Partnership
- Maud Community Association
- Moss of Cruden Community Association
- Muchalls Village Association

- New Deer Community Association
- Newtonhill Village Association
- Old Deer Community Association
- Portsoy Community Enterprise
- Rora Community Association
- Stonehaven Town Partnership
- St. Combs & Charleston Community Association
- St. Fergus Community Association
- Stuartfield & District Community Association
- Tarland Development Group
- Tarves Development Trust
- The Boyndie Trust Ltd
- Udney Community Trust Company Ltd

Key Agencies

- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- Scottish Water
- Scottish Enterprise
- NESTRANS
- Grampian Health Board
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Transport Scotland
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Marine Scotland

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Other stakeholders

- Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Planning Authority
- Aberdeen City Council
- Angus Council
- The Moray Council
- The Cairngorms National Park
- Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce
- Aberdeen Design Forum
- Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group
- Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum
- Aberdeenshire Council Housing Forum
- Aberdeenshire Future Infrastructure Requirements for Services
- Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership
- Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action
- Banchory Business Association
- Banchory & District Initiative
- British Telecom
- Centrica
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Fraserburgh Harbour Board
- Friends of the Earth
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Grampian House Builders Committee of Homes for Scotland
- Inverurie Business Association (We are Inverurie)
- National Farmers Union (Scotland)
- National Grid plc
- National Trust for Scotland
- North East Banffshire Tourism Trust
- North East Fisheries Development Board
- North East Forest Industries Group
- Opportunity North East

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- Our Mearns Tourism Association
- Peterhead BID group
- Peterhead Business Association
- River Dee Salmon Board
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, North East Branch
- Royal Society for the protection of Birds
- Royal Town Planning Institute
- Scottish Land and Estates
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- SportScotland
- Stonehaven Business Association
- Stonehaven Tourism Group
- The Bailies of Bennachie
- Scottish Youth Parliament
- UK Offshore Operators Association
- Visit Aberdeenshire
- Visit Scotland

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Appendix 1 - Existing Supplementary Guidance and Planning Advice to the 2012 Local Development Plan

All Supplementary Guidance in relation to the Local Development Plan 2012 is available at <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/LDP>

Supplementary Guidance:

- [1 Affordable Housing](#)
- [2 The Regeneration Priority Area](#)
- [3 Energetica](#)
- [4 The Coastal Zone](#)
- 5 Local Nature Conservation Sites
- [6 Areas safeguarded or identified as areas of search for minerals development](#)
- [7 Developer Obligations](#)
- [8 Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy](#)
- [9 Special Landscape Areas](#)

Planning Advice

All current planning advice is available at http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans_policies/planning_advice.asp

- 1/2015 Protected Species Surveys
- 2/2015 The River Dee Special Area of Conservation
- 3/2015 Development affecting Natura Sites
- 4/2015 Biodiversity and Development
- 5/2015 Opportunities for Biodiversity enhancement
- 6/2015 Baseline Ecological survey
- 7/2015 Bats and Development
- 8/2015 Bat Survey Requirements
- 9/2015 Buffer Strips

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- 10/2015 Outdoor Access and Development
 - 11/2015 Trees and Development
 - 12/2015 Protected trees Guidance
 - 13/2015 Landscape Design Guidance
-
- 1 /2014 Strategic Landscape Capacity for Windfarms
 - 2 /2014 Wind Turbines - Assessing Noise from Wind Turbine Developments
 - 3 /2014 The sequential approach to retail site selection
-
- 5 /2012 Energetica
 - 6 /2012 Design. A Technical Advice Note has also been produced.
 - 7 /2012 Masterplanning
 - 8 /2012 Settlement Character
 - 12/2012 Landscape Character Advice for Small Scale Development
 - 13/2012 Housing and business development in the countryside and greenbelt
-
- 1 /2010 Timber in construction: Using local timber in sustainable construction - Guidance for North Scotland
 - 2 /2010 Microgeneration

Appendix 2 - Ten Standards of Community Engagement

THE TEN STANDARDS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- We will identify and involve the people and organisations with an interest in the focus of the engagement.
- We will identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.
- We will gather evidence of the needs and available resources and use this to agree the purpose, scope and timescale of the engagement and the actions to be taken.
- We will agree to use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose.
- We will agree and use clear procedures to enable the participants to work with one another efficiently and effectively.
- We will ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants.
- We will work effectively with others with an interest in the engagement.
- We will develop actively the skills, knowledge and confidence of all the participants.
- We will feedback the results of the engagement to the wider community and agencies affected.
- We will monitor and evaluate whether the engagement meets its purposes and the national standards for community engagement.

Produced By Planning and Building Standards Service
Aberdeenshire Council

For more information on the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan see
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/LDP

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