



# A Guide to the Local Development Plan

## Aberdeen's new Local Development Plan

The City Council is preparing a new Aberdeen Local Development Plan (LDP) which we hope to adopt in 2022. The Plan will show which land is being allocated to meet the city's development needs over the next 10-20 years. These needs were identified in the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2014 and the Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2018. The new Local Development Plan will also set out the planning policies to be applied in promoting the growth of a sustainable city over this period.

## Pre-Main Issues and Main Issues Report

To date we have carried out a lot of work with help from key agencies such as Scottish Water, Scottish Natural Heritage, NHS Grampian and Transport Scotland. Local communities, the development industry and businesses have also been heavily involved. In 2018 we started the process of preparing the new Local Development Plan by asking people to tell us what 'Main Issues' they thought the next Local Development Plan should tackle. In Spring 2019 we subsequently published a Main Issues Report which outlined 12 Main Issues for discussion. We set out Proposed Options to deal with each Main Issue, including our Preferred Option. Around 630 representations were made.

## The Proposed Plan

The comments we received in response to the Main Issues Report, along with all previous work, helped us to prepare a Proposed Plan which was approved by Full Council for publication on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. The Proposed Plan contains the Council's firm view on what should be included in the final adopted Local Development Plan. We have also published a Proposed Delivery Programme setting out what needs to happen to make the Plan work. A Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Appraisal have also been carried out.

## How do I respond?

You now have the opportunity to submit to the Council representations on:

1. Proposed Plan;
2. Proposed Delivery Programme; and,
3. Strategic Environmental Assessment Environment Report

Representations should be concise, generally no more than 2,000 words, (plus limited supporting documents). They should fully explain the issues you wish to be considered as there is unlikely to be an opportunity to expand on these comments at a later stage. Representations must include a name and address (postal or email) to be considered valid. Anonymous comments cannot form part of the Examination.

Comments can be submitted to us online at: <http://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning/proposedplan2020> or by email to: [ldp@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Electronic responses are preferable as Council staff are working remotely due to coronavirus. Where this is not possible responses can be sent by post to the address below. However, it should be noted that acknowledgements for postal submissions may not be sent out until the end of the representation period.

Development Plan Team, Strategic Place Planning, Business Hub 4 – Ground Floor North, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB

Responses must be returned to us by 11.59pm on the 31 August 2020.

More information and all supporting documents can be found online at: <http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/aldp2022>

## Examination in Public

We will consider all the representations received to the Proposed Plan and we will prepare a summary of unresolved issues before submitting the Plan to Scottish Ministers for Examination in Public. Scottish Ministers will appoint a person (usually called a Reporter) to examine the Proposed Plan. The Reporter will then ask the Council to supply the summary of unresolved issues, copies of unresolved representations and any other supporting documents or productions.

After this, there is no opportunity for anyone who has made representations, or for the Council, to submit any additional material to the Examination unless asked to do so by the Reporter. As such, the original representation is potentially your only opportunity to raise an issue to be examined.

The Reporter will decide what form the Examination will take. Most issues are expected to be handled without the need for further information, but where additional evidence is requested, this will normally be in written form. Where a face-to-face meeting is required, this will normally take the form of a discussion with questions led by the Reporter (this is usually called a Hearing). Only in exceptional circumstances will a formal Inquiry be necessary to test information through cross-examination. If the Reporter invites you to participate in a Hearing or Inquiry you may be asked to supply a further written statement in advance.

Representations on the Proposed Delivery Programme and Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report or any of the other supporting documents are not dealt with at the Examination. Instead, the Council must consider these representations when finalising the documents after the Examination.

### **Adopting the Plan**

After completing the Examination, the Reporter will present his or her conclusions and recommendations to Scottish Ministers. The conclusions and recommendations will be published, and notification sent to everyone who submitted an unresolved representation. The Council must take onboard the conclusions and recommendations before proceeding to adopt the Plan. Only in very exceptional circumstances can the Council choose not to do this.

### **Coronavirus**

The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 requires the Council to consider whether to publish a document or make available a document for inspection may give rise to a significant risk of the transmission of coronavirus, or is likely to be ineffective or inappropriate due to action taken in order to control the incidence or transmission of coronavirus. This Act as well as UK and subordinate legislation requires us to promote the national policy of social/physical distancing. This has a direct impact on a number of statutory and non-statutory duties which the Council would normally carry out when publishing the Proposed

Plan, Proposed Delivery Programme and Environmental Report. As such, there will be no public meetings or drop-in sessions for the duration of social/physical distancing policy as they may give rise to a significant risk of the transmission of coronavirus. Where possible, correspondence, communication and publicity (including public inspection of documents) will be by electronic means.

You can find out more information about the Proposed Local Development Plan by sending an email to:  
[ldp@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

or looking online at:

<http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/aldp2022>

For more information on the Development Planning System, particularly relating to Development Plans and the Examination of these Plans, please refer to:

- Circular 6/2013 - Development Planning  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/12/9924>
- Development Plan Examinations  
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/Appeals/howwework/proceduresindpe/dperepresentationguidancenote>

You can contact the Scottish Government's Planning Service:  
Telephone: 01312447528  
Email: [Development.Plans@gov.scot](mailto:Development.Plans@gov.scot)



Independent, free and impartial advice about the planning system can be obtained from Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS).

0300 323 7602 or [office@pas.org.uk](mailto:office@pas.org.uk)  
[www.pas.org.uk](http://www.pas.org.uk)