



ABERDEEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2028

# DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME 2023

## **Aberdeen City Local Development Plan Scheme 2023**

### **What is a Local Development Plan?**

The Local Development Plan is at the heart of the planning system. It sets out policies to guide development and manages spatial land use. The plan sets out the vision and framework for an area and covers a range of topics including housing, placemaking, the economy, infrastructure, community facilities, environmental assets and climate change.

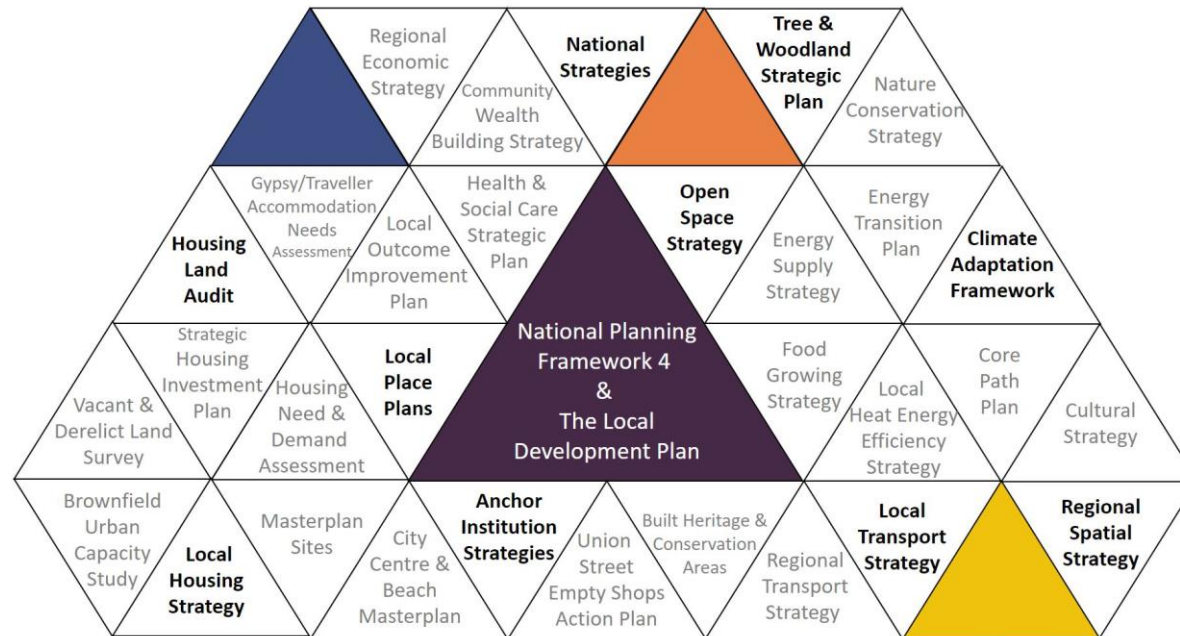
At the time of writing the 2017 Aberdeen Local Development Plan is currently in use. Aberdeen City Council notified Scottish Ministers of an intention to adopt our latest Local Development Plan on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. It is anticipated that the Aberdeen Local Development Plan will be adopted in June 2023.



**The Proposed Plan is anticipated to be adopted in 2023.**

## Current Status of Planning Documents

Strategic Development Plans and Scottish Planning Policy no longer have materiality in the decision-making process. Local Development Plans now sit alongside the National Planning Framework 4 as the core documents which are material to planning decisions. Other plans, strategies and guidance documents are interlinked.



**Diagram 1 showing the Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4 at the heart of decision making in the planning system.**

When the new Local Development Plan is adopted in 2023 it will be accompanied by non-statutory Aberdeen Planning Guidance which will support its interpretation. There will be a single statutory guidance document which outlines Developer Obligations.

## **What is a Development Plan Scheme?**

This document is the Development Plan Scheme. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (the Act) requires all Councils to prepare one at least annually.

As our latest plan is set for adoption, work begins on the preparation of the next Local Development Plan to be adopted in 2028 and this Development Plan Scheme sets out the timetable.

This document provides information on the following issues:

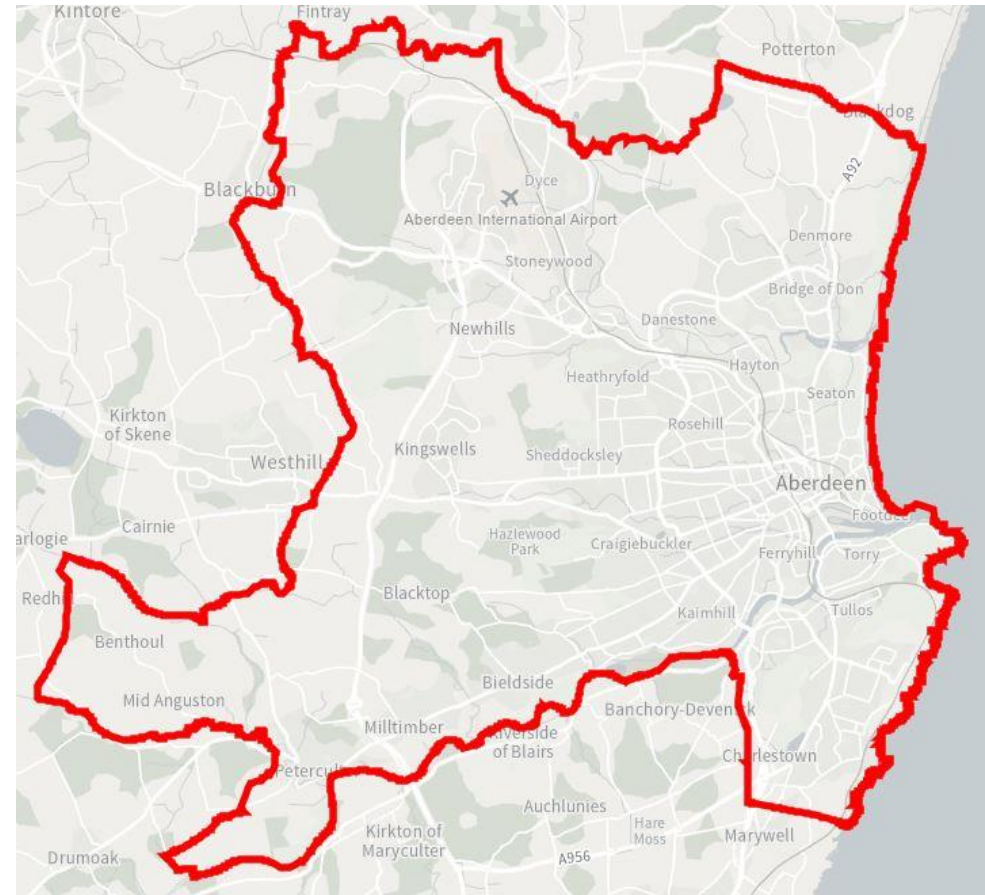
- Why we need to progress a new Local Development Plan (LDP)
- Stages of the new plan process
- The timetable for preparing and adopting the 2028 Plan
- Evidence report contents
- Stages of the evidence report
- The timetable for the evidence report

A Participation Statement is included at the end of the document, and this sets out how consultation and engagement will be undertaken.

## Why We Need to Progress a New Local Development Plan

There have been a number of changes to the way in which Local Development Plans are produced since the Scottish Government introduced its planning reform agenda. The next Local Development Plan will follow a very different process to the Plans which have preceded it. Previously Planning Authorities were required to prepare a new plan every 5 years. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (the Act) now requires plans to be refreshed every 10 years.

The Scottish Government has acknowledged that the transition to the new planning system will have implications for LDP timescales. It expects that every Local Authority will have a new plan developed under the new system within 5 years of the new development plan regulations coming into force, i.e. spring 2028.



**The boundary of the Aberdeen City Council area.**

## Stages of the New Plan Process

The passing of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (the Act) by the Scottish Parliament invoked a number of changes to the way in which Local Development Plans are produced.

- Main Issues Reports are no longer a part of plan making. Instead, an Evidence Report is required to inform the proposed LDP.
- The Evidence Report is subject to a Gate check examination.
- There is to be a 'call for ideas' to inform the proposed LDP.



Diagram 2 showing the 5 stages of plan development.

### Stage 1 Evidence Report: Financial Quarter 2 (July – September) 2023 to Financial Quarter 3 (October – December) 2024

An Evidence Report is the first formal stage in plan preparation. It is required to set out robust data in order to inform the planning authority on its approach to specific issues prior to a proposed plan which sets out where development should take place. It will include a range of information including research, early engagement and technical reports on a range of topics including;

- economic, cultural and social characteristics of an area
- built heritage, environmental issues, infrastructure
- city demographics
- housing, education and healthcare needs
- site appraisal methodology
- scoping for strategic environmental assessments (SEA)

The Evidence Report must include a statement on the steps the planning authority have taken in preparing the report to seek the views of the public and in particular other specific groups such as disabled persons, gypsy/travellers and children and young people.

### Stage 2 Gate Check/Call for Ideas: Financial Quarter 3 (October – December) 2024 to Financial Quarter 1 (April – June) 2025

The Evidence Report undergoes a ‘gate check’ examination, undertaken by a Reporter from the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals. The Reporter will ascertain whether the planning authority has adequate information to prepare a proposed Local Development Plan. They will assess the outcomes that are sought from the plan (e.g. housing numbers), proposed departures from national policy (if relevant), and methods for plan preparation including engagement, alignment with community planning and scope of environmental assessments. In considering any disputes that have arisen from engagement, the Council may be asked to present additional information.

The Scottish Government has set out a 'call for ideas' stage to inform the proposed plan. The public would be invited to submit ideas for any aspect of the plan such as proposed policies or development sites. Submissions should support the outcomes from the Evidence Report otherwise there may be no justification for considering them further. Local Place Plans that communities have prepared would ideally be shared with the planning authority by this stage so that they can be considered for integration within the proposed plan.

Assessments will be undertaken by the Council on all considered proposals during the analysis of the call for ideas stage. This may include equalities assessment, environmental assessment, flood risk assessment etc.

#### Stage 3 Preparation of Proposed Local Development Plan: Financial Quarter 1 (April – June) 2025 to Financial Quarter 1 (April – June) 2026

The Proposed Local Development Plan will include proposals that will achieve the objectives that are set out in the Evidence Report. It will identify areas where significant change is required that the planning system can support. It is anticipated that Local Development Plans will have an emphasis on maps, site briefs and masterplans to set out a spatial strategy and they will have minimal wording to reflect the new role of National Planning Framework 4 as a parallel primary document. New sites for development will have to be confirmed as deliverable and free from constraints as far as possible.

#### Stage 4 Formal Consultation and Modifications: Financial Quarter 1 (April – June) 2026 to Financial Quarter 1 (April – June) 2027

The proposed Local Development Plan and Evidence Report will then be published, and a formal consultation will take place. The Council will decide whether it wishes to make modifications to the proposed plan and publishes a Modification Report. The Council will also prepare its response to unresolved issues prior to submission to Scottish Ministers.

#### Stage 5 Examination and Adoption: Financial Quarter 1 (April – June) 2027 to Financial Quarter 1 (April – June) 2028



Scottish Ministers will then instruct the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals to conduct an examination of the modified proposed Local Development Plan which is expected to take between 6 and 9 months to complete. Aberdeen City Council will then adopt the plan in accordance with any findings of the examination. Only in exceptional cases will there be scope to decline a Reporter's recommendations.

### Other Responsibilities

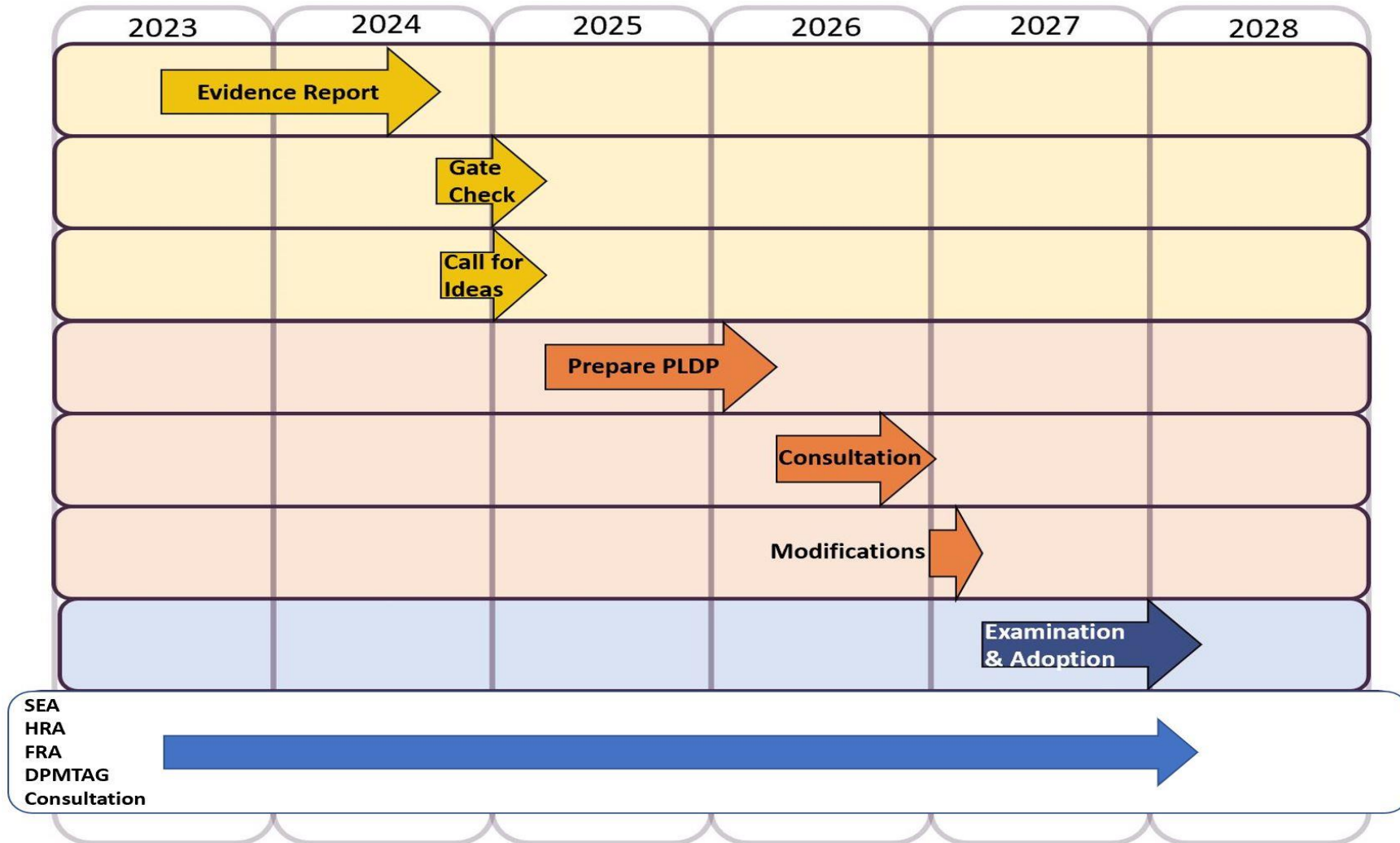
Other Responsibilities to be undertaken in parallel are as follows:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)
- Transport Appraisal (DPMTAG)
- Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)

All of these Assessments/Appraisals will run from July 2023 to January 2028

A Delivery Programme will be worked upon in parallel to the preparation of the plan. It is required to achieve an outcome-based approach to development planning and will support the delivery of the LDP. The programme will outline a clear timetable for delivery of sites and proposals by managing the timing of the authority's financial investment and any co-ordination with private or other funding identified as being needed to deliver intended plan outcomes.

## Timetable for Preparing and Adopting the 2028 Plan



## **Evidence Report Contents**

The new plan process begins with the preparation of the Evidence Report which will be the focus of Aberdeen City Council between Summer 2023 and Autumn 2024. Local Authorities are still awaiting clarity on the process and consequently this Development Plan Scheme cannot go into great detail at present.

National Planning Framework 4 and the Local Development Plan are now the primary documents by which planning decisions must be assessed in Scotland. Beyond the planning system, Aberdeen City Council's Local Outcome Improvement Plan provides the blueprint for how community planning partners will work with people to improve outcomes for individuals, families and communities in Aberdeen.

The Local Development Plan has a role to play in ensuring the outcomes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan are met. There is some cohesion between the main 3 themes of the National Planning Framework 4 and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The next Local Development Plan will also set out 3 main themes which seek to continue this alignment. Definitions are set out for clarity in tables 1 and 2 that follow.

**Table 1: Cohesion between themes in the National Planning Framework 4 and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.**

Document	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)	<b>Sustainable Places</b> – where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity (NPF4 definition)	<b>Liveable Places</b> – where we can all live better, healthier lives (NPF4 definition)	<b>Productive Places</b> – where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy (NPF4 definition)
Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)	<b>Prosperous Place</b> – addressing climate change and the nature crisis (interpreted definition)	<b>Prosperous People</b> – supporting health and wellbeing (interpreted definition)	<b>Prosperous Economy</b> – inclusive economic growth agenda (interpreted definition)

**Table 2: The themes and interpretations we have chosen for the forthcoming Local Development Plan.**

Document	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3
Local Development Plan (LDP)	<b>Climate Change and Nature Crisis</b> - addressing climate change and restoring nature and biodiversity	<b>Place and People</b> – supporting places that put the health and wellbeing of people first	<b>Equality and Economy</b> – promoting a sustainable and inclusive economy

**Table 3** on the next pages sets out the 9 topic groups for the evidence report, the NPF4 policy subject papers that each group covers and highlights which of the themes each NPF4 policy focuses upon. **Appendix 1** at the end of this document outlines the LDP content for each of the NPF4 policy subject papers.

**Table 3. Topic Groups and NPF4 policy contents (LDP context of policies in appendix 1)**

Topic Group	NPF4 Policies	Themes	NPF4 Theme	Related LOIP Theme/s	Related Topic Groups
1. Spatial Strategy	Green Belt		Sustainable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosperous Place</li> <li>Prosperous People</li> <li>Prosperous Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All other Topics</li> </ul>
	Brownfield, Vacant & Derelict Land & Empty Buildings		Sustainable Places		
	Coastal Development		Sustainable Places		
	Business & Industry		Productive Places		
2. Delivery of Homes	Quality Homes		Liveable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosperous Place</li> <li>Prosperous People</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial Strategy</li> <li>Infrastructure, Transport and Communication</li> <li>Energy and Resources</li> </ul>
3. Historic Environment	Historic Assets & Places		Sustainable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosperous People</li> <li>Prosperous Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial Strategy</li> </ul>
4. Infrastructure, Transport and Communication	Sustainable Transport		Sustainable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosperous Place</li> <li>Prosperous People</li> <li>Prosperous Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial Strategy</li> <li>Delivery of Homes</li> <li>Wellbeing of Community</li> <li>Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation</li> <li>Energy and Resources</li> <li>Centres of Business and Culture</li> </ul>
	Infrastructure First		Liveable Places		
	Blue & Green Infrastructure		Liveable Places		

	Digital Infrastructure				Liveable Places		
5. Wellbeing of Community	Design, Quality & Place				Liveable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosperous Place</li> <li>• Prosperous People</li> <li>• Prosperous Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial Strategy</li> <li>• Delivery of Homes</li> <li>• Infrastructure, Transport and Communication</li> <li>• Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation</li> <li>• Energy and Resources</li> <li>• Centres of Business and Culture</li> </ul>
	Local Living & 20 Minute				Liveable Places		
	Play, Recreation & Sport				Liveable Places		
	Health & Safety				Liveable Places		
	Community Wealth Building				Productive Places		
6. Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation	Climate & Nature Crisis				Sustainable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosperous Place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial Strategy</li> <li>• Delivery of Homes</li> <li>• Infrastructure, Transport and Communication</li> <li>• Nature &amp; Biodiversity</li> <li>• Energy and Resources</li> <li>• Centres of Business and Culture</li> </ul>
	Climate Mitigation & Adaptation				Sustainable Places		
	Flood Risk & Water Management				Liveable Places		

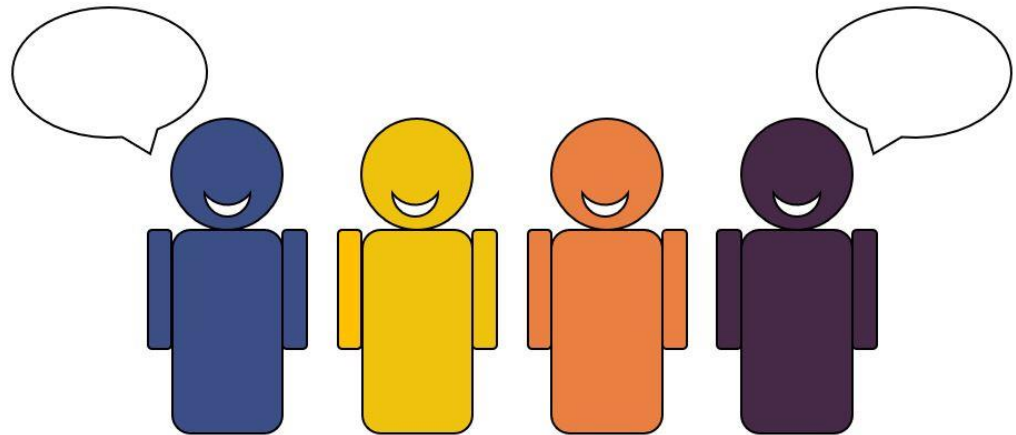
7. Nature & Biodiversity	Biodiversity				Sustainable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosperous Place</li> <li>• Prosperous People</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial Strategy</li> <li>• Infrastructure, Transport and Communication</li> <li>• Wellbeing of Community</li> <li>• Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation</li> </ul>
	Natural Places				Sustainable Places		
	Forestry, Woodland & Trees				Sustainable Places		
	Soils				Sustainable Places		
8. Energy and Resources	Energy				Sustainable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosperous Place</li> <li>• Prosperous People</li> <li>• Prosperous Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial Strategy</li> <li>• Delivery of Homes</li> <li>• Wellbeing of Community</li> <li>• Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation</li> </ul>
	Zero Waste				Sustainable Places		
	Heating & Cooling				Liveable Places		
	Minerals				Productive Places		
9. Centres of Business and Culture	City, Town, Local & Commercial Centres				Productive Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosperous Place</li> <li>• Prosperous People</li> <li>• Prosperous Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial Strategy</li> <li>• Delivery of Homes</li> <li>• Infrastructure, Transport and Communication</li> <li>• Wellbeing of Community</li> <li>• Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation</li> </ul>
	Retail				Productive Places		
	Tourism				Productive Places		
	Culture & Creativity				Productive Places		

## Stages of the Evidence Report

### Early Engagement with Communities

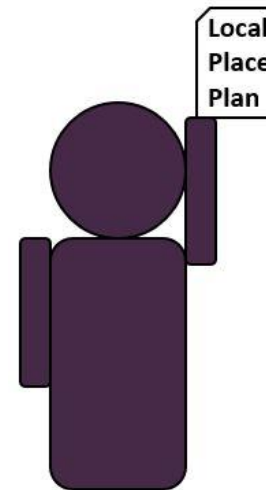
The Evidence Report is split into 9 different topic groups which allows members of the public to focus on any particular subject that they have an interest in, avoiding stakeholders from becoming overwhelmed by a document so wide in scope that meaningful consultation becomes difficult.

There will be an early opportunity for the public to feedback online or by post. Meetings with Community Councils and other key groups will also take place.



### Engage with Communities to Include Local Place Plans

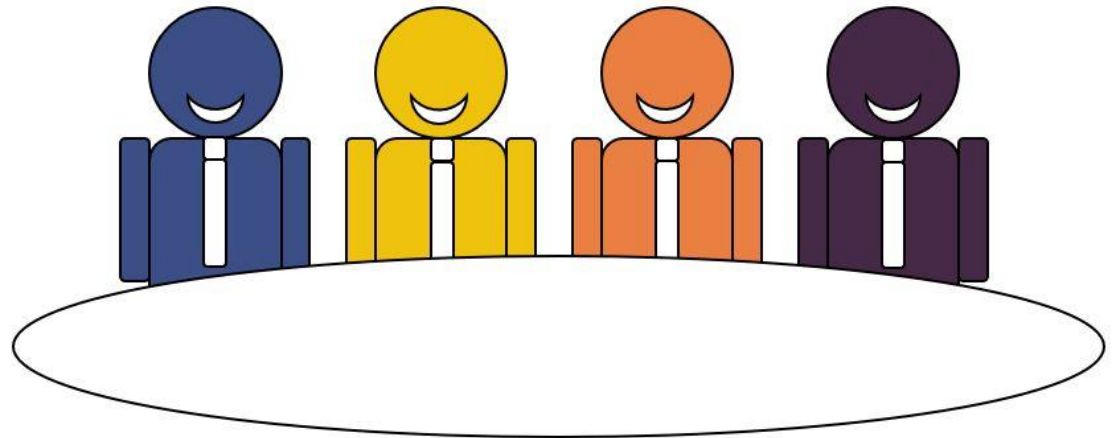
Local Place Plans were introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. These plans are to be produced by communities setting out their ambitions for development and use of land within their area. These may be led by Community Councils, but other Community groups are eligible to create their own Local Place Plans. For Local Place Plans to be considered in the preparation of the proposed Local Development Plan, it is necessary for communities to submit them to the planning authority by the **31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024**.





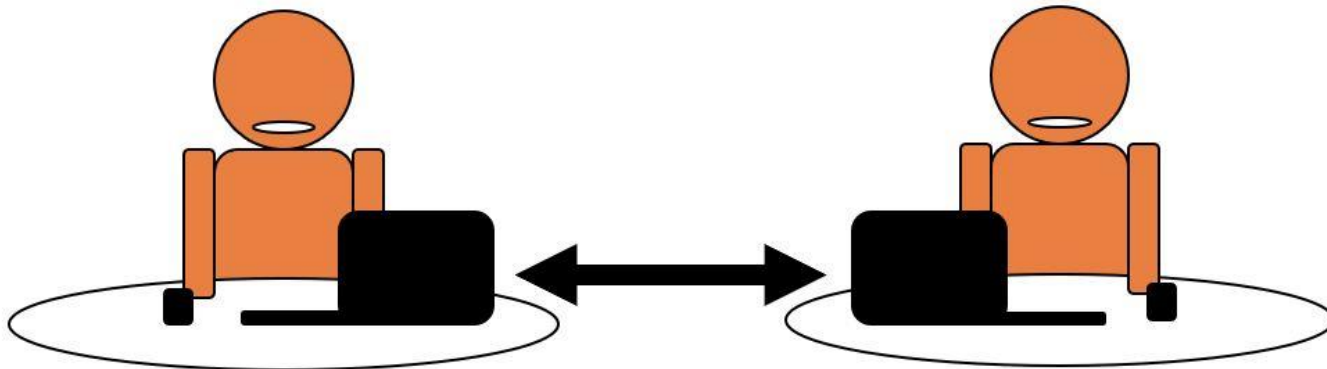
### Review Group

There will be Review Groups for each of the 9 topic groups. These groups will be focussed and will involve Individuals who have expressed an interest, and who have relevant expertise. The aim of the review group is to look over and discuss draft topic papers and provide focused insight which the Local Development Plan team can utilise to make improvements.



### Internal Consultations

Internal consultations with other Council services will take place in order to inform the Evidence Report. As the Evidence Report will inform the Proposed Local Development Plan, it is important that there is alignment between the evidence base and the visions and strategies that other services have.



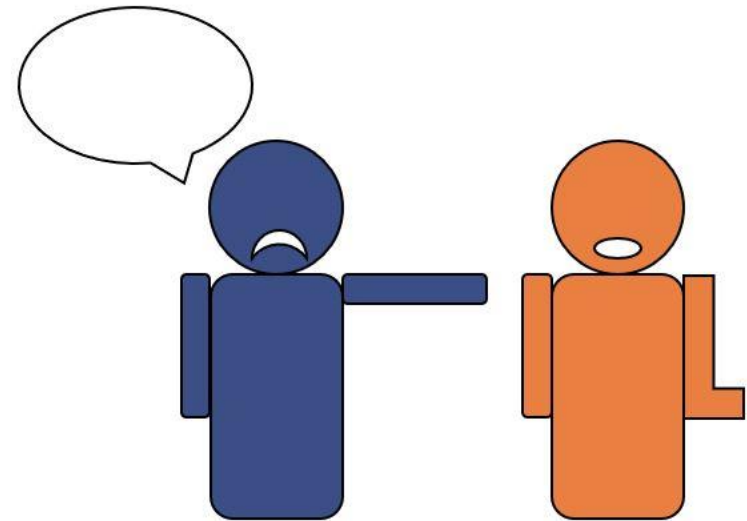
### Public Feedback

There will be a 6 week formal consultation period where the public and other stakeholders have the opportunity to comment upon the Evidence Report Topic Papers. Again, this will occur online via the consultation hub. We will also accept postal correspondence.



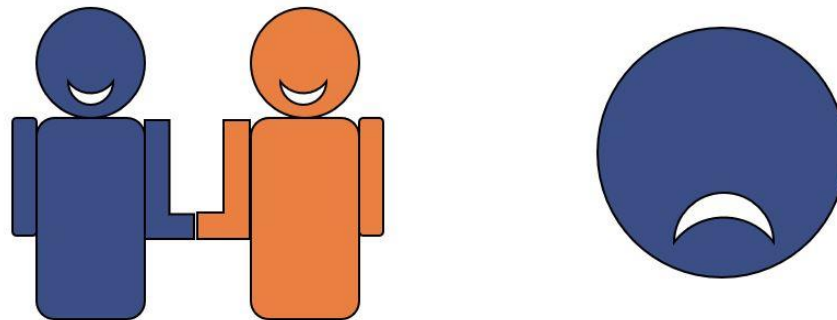
### Identify Disputes

‘Dispute’ is a term used in the Guidance on Local Development Planning where people disagree with the evidence collected, consider that there are alternative sources of information that should be used, or disagree with the conclusions made.



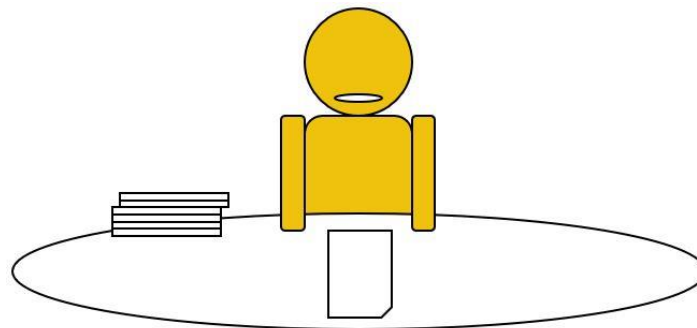
### Resolve or Unresolved Disputes

Disputes will either be resolved, and the topic paper modified, or remain unresolved and passed on to the Scottish Government at the Gate Check. Elected Members will have the opportunity at Committee to discuss and debate any disputes and request modification to resolve should they see fit.



### Gate Check

A Reporter from the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will determine whether the Council is required to provide any further information with respect to the submitted Evidence Report and the attached unresolved disputes.



## **Evidence Report Programme**

2023 Financial Quarter 2 (July-September) – Advertisement for early engagement

2023 Financial Quarter 2 (July-September)– Early engagement meetings with communities

2023 Financial Quarter 3 (October-December)– Community engagement to include local place plan outcomes

2023 Financial Quarter 3 (October-December) – Internal consultations

2024 Financial Quarter 2 (July-September)– Draft of evidence report topic papers

2024 Financial Quarter 3 (October-December)– Review groups review the topic papers

2024 Financial Quarter 3 (October-December)– Advertisement for formal consultation

2024 Financial Quarter 3 (October-December)– Formal consultation

2024 Financial Quarter 2 (July-September) – Proposed evidence report finalised

2024 Financial Quarter 2 (July-September)– Identify disputes

2024 Financial Quarter 2 (July-September)– Targeted discussion relating to disputes

2024 Financial Quarter 3 (October-December)– Final evidence report and unresolved disputes

2024 Financial Quarter 3 (October-December)- Committee

2024 Financial Quarter 3 (October-December)– Gate Check

## **Participation Statement**

We are strongly committed to encouraging interest and wide public involvement in the preparation of the new Local Development Plan, beginning with the Evidence Report. This Participation Statement explains how local communities and other stakeholders will be engaged and how they will have an opportunity to be involved in the preparation of a new Local Development Plan.

The participation statement will include the following:

- **Consultation partners**
- **National Standards for Community Engagement**
- **Advertisement and awareness of consultations**
- **Consultation engagement**

## Consultation partners

Planning legislation sets out the requirement for community engagement. It has been enhanced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 which includes specific provisions for children and young people, gypsy/travellers, and disabled people. The Scottish Government published a draft document titled 'Effective Community Engagement in local development planning guidance' on 24 May 2023. Consultation on this draft will run until 13 September 2023. The document informed the Council's approach.

Engagement and consultation of the new Local Development Plan will be based upon a collaborative approach. This will include the following bodies and groups:

- Community Councils
- Other Community Groups
- Landowners and Developers
- Businesses and business groups
- Children and young people
- Disabled persons
- Elderly persons
- Gypsy/Travellers
- Minority groups

- Nature Scot
- SEPA
- Historic Environment Scotland
- NHS Grampian
- Scottish Forestry
- Scottish Water
- Transport Scotland
- NESTRANS
- Scottish Enterprise
- Marine Scotland
- Aberdeenshire Council

## National Standards for Community Engagement

Our approach to engagement for our next Local Development Plan will adopt the following principles as set out by the National Standards for Community Engagement.



**Diagram 3. Principles from the National Standards for Community Engagement.**

## **Advertisement and awareness of consultations**

The local development plan newsletter, found on the Council's website, will include details of all upcoming public consultation events. This will also be emailed directly to interested parties. The planning service will raise awareness of public consultations by advertising on social media (facebook and twitter). Key stakeholders and those on our mailing list will be informed directly by email, or letter if sought instead. Anybody can be added to our mailing list or subscribe to our newsletter upon request by contacting:

[ldp@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

With regards to final consultation upon the evidence report final draft, the call for ideas stage consultation and consultation upon the proposed Local Development Plan, these will also be advertised in the local newspaper.

Stakeholders and the general public who have made representations in response to a consultation event will be notified for future consultation events in relation to the proposed local development plan.

Statutory notification will take place of owners, lessees or occupiers of land of neighbouring sites (within 20 meters) which the proposed plan specifically sets out to be developed and which would have a significant effect on the use and amenity of the neighbouring land. Notification is only required where there are premises on the site or neighbouring land.

Copies of the evidence report final draft and the proposed local development plan will be available to examine at Marischal College and every Council library across the city.



## Consultation Engagement

Table 4 below sets out the purpose and methods for consultation at each stage of the next plan process.

**Table 4.** Stages of the plan process and engagement.

Plan Stage	Engagement Purpose	Engagement Methods
Development Plan Scheme – Summer 2023	To give stakeholders including the public a say on how the Council engages with them in the preparation of the next Local Development Plan.	A survey will be created for stakeholders for the public to fill out otherwise general comments will be accepted by means of post or through consultation hub via the Council website. The consultation period will last for 8 weeks.
Evidence Report early consultation: July-December 2023	To make the public aware that a new Local Development Plan process has begun and to	There will be meetings with community council groups with a particular focus on the inclusion of elements from prepared local place plans. Events conducted in person and/or online will take place to engage with the gypsy/traveller community, disability groups and children and young people. The place standard tool may be utilised where it is deemed appropriate.

	gather information to inform the evidence report draft.	<p>We will engage with key agencies and organisations to gather evidence.</p> <p>We will also engage with Councillors on the planning issues facing their communities.</p> <p>We will consult the relevant authorities upon the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>Once an early draft of the evidence report is finished, review groups will feed back opinion upon each of the 9 topic groups.</p>
Evidence Report consultation on final draft: October-December 2023	To identify any areas of dispute for the purposes of preparing for the gate check. Attempting to resolve disputes where appropriate.	The public will have the opportunity to feed back upon the final draft of the evidence report online via the consultation hub. The key agencies, councillors, gypsy/traveller community, disability groups and children and young people will specifically be notified to feed back into the process. <a href="#">Circular 2/2021</a> provides guidance on the promotion and use of mediation in the planning system, and there may be opportunities to use such techniques when attempting to resolve disputes at this stage.
Gate Check: October 2024 to March 2025	To inform the public and stakeholders	The Council will publicise the submission of the Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers and the outcome of the Gate Check in our newsletter which will be available on the Council website.
Proposed Plan call for ideas: October 2024 to March 2025	To provide an opportunity for people and organisations to	The public will be invited to feed back into the process during the 'call for ideas' stage of the plan. This will primarily be conducted online via the consultation hub or by postal submission. Meetings will be held with key agencies and other significant groups.

	put forward ideas and sites for inclusion in the Proposed Plan and to shape its content	
Finalised Proposed Plan consultation: April 2026 to March 2027	To publicise and explain the content of the Proposed Plan and allow people to make formal representations to it.	<p>A minimum 12 week period of consultation on the Proposed Plan, the Proposed Delivery Plan and the Environmental Report will take place. This will primarily be conducted online via the consultation hub or by postal submission.</p> <p>A summary of all comments will be produced and published alongside the Council's response to the comments and any proposed modifications that the Council seeks to make in response.</p>
Examination and adoption of plan: April 2027 to March 2028.	To inform the public and stakeholders	The submission of the plan for examination will be publicised in our newsletter on the Council website. All parties with unresolved representations to the Proposed Plan will be notified that the plan has been submitted for examination.

**Appendix 1. Local Development Plan definitions for subject papers is abridged from National Planning Framework 4.**

Topic Group	Content	Subject papers
1. Spatial Strategy	The subjects in this topic group have a particularly strong spatial focus – they concern decision making or allocation upon a map. These subject areas may also include elements which are not spatial.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Green belt</b> – A management tool to restrict development around the city, green belts should be identified or reviewed as part of the preparation of LDPs. Boundary changes may be made to accommodate planned growth, or to extend, or alter the area covered as green belt. Detailed green belt boundaries should be based on evidence and should be clearly identified in plans.</li> <li>● <b>Brownfield, Vacant &amp; Derelict Land &amp; Empty Buildings</b> - LDPs should set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and empty buildings.</li> <li>● <b>Coastal Development</b> - LDP spatial strategies should consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change. They should identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast, explore opportunities to use nature-based solutions to improve resilience and should align with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.</li> <li>● <b>Business and Industry</b> - LDPs should use land audits to inform the allocation of a range of sites (location, size and quality in terms of accessibility and services) for business and industry. Allocation should take account of local economic strategies and support broader sustainability and wellbeing objectives.</li> </ul>
2. Delivery of Homes	The subject in this topic group concerns housing land allocations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Quality homes</b> - LDPs are expected to identify a Local Housing Land Requirement (10 year minimum all tenure housing land requirement) in locations that create quality places for people to live taking into account local living, 20 minute neighbourhoods and an infrastructure first approach. Areas that may be suitable for new homes beyond 10 years are also to be identified.</li> </ul>
3. Historic Environment	The subject in this topic group concerns the historic environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Historic assets and places</b> - LDPs, including through their spatial strategies, should support the sustainable management of the historic environment. They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.</li> </ul>

<p>4. Infrastructure, Transport and Communication</p>	<p>The subjects in this topic group have a focus upon travel, connections and communication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sustainable Transport</b> - LDPs should prioritise locations for future development accessible by sustainable modes. The spatial strategy should make best use of existing infrastructure and services. LDPs should promote a place-based approach to consider how to reduce car-dominance. Consideration should be given to the type, mix and use of development and the accessibility for users of all abilities. LDPs should be informed by an appropriate transport appraisal.</li> <li>• <b>Infrastructure first</b> - LDPs and delivery programmes should be based on an integrated infrastructure (schools, roads, community assets etc) first approach. Plans should be informed by evidence on infrastructure capacity, condition, needs and deliverability. LDPs should set out infrastructure requirements needed to deliver the spatial strategy and indicate the type of financial or in kind contribution required. Plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans.</li> <li>• <b>Blue &amp; Green Infrastructure</b> - LDPs should be informed by audits and/or strategies, covering the multiple functions and benefits of blue and green infrastructure. The spatial strategy should identify and protect blue and green infrastructure assets and identify enhancement and expansion priorities. LDPs should encourage the permanent or temporary use of unused or under-used land as green infrastructure. LDPs should safeguard access rights and core paths, including active travel routes, and encourage new and enhanced opportunities for access linked to wider network.</li> <li>• <b>Digital Infrastructure</b> - LDPs should support the delivery of digital infrastructure, including fixed line and mobile connectivity, particularly in areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Wellbeing of Community</p>	<p>The subjects in this topic group all concern matters which directly affect the wellbeing of local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Design, Quality &amp; Place</b> - LDPs should be place-based, created in line with the Place Principle. The spatial strategy should be underpinned by the six qualities of successful places. LDPs should provide clear expectations taking account of the local context, characteristics and connectivity of the area. They should identify where design frameworks, briefs, masterplans and design codes are required. The Place Standard tool should be used in preparing LDPs and guidance to engage with communities and other stakeholders. Its use in early design discussions on planning applications should be promoted.</li> <li>• <b>Local Living &amp; 20 Minute</b> - LDPs should support local living through the spatial strategy, associated site briefs and masterplans. The approach should take into account the local context, consider the local settlement pattern and reflect the particular characteristics and challenges</li> </ul>

		<p>faced by each place. Communities and businesses will have an important role to play in informing this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Play, Recreation &amp; Sport</b> - LDPs should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based community consultation and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. These spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and/or water management plans. New provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.</li> <li>• <b>Health &amp; Safety</b> - LDP spatial strategies should seek to tackle health inequalities particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage. They should identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needed in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships. LDPs should create healthier places for example through opportunities for exercise, healthier lifestyles, land for community food growing and allotments, and awareness of locations of concern for suicide. Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest</li> <li>• <b>Community Wealth Building</b> - LDPs should be aligned with any local strategy for community wealth building. Spatial strategies should address community wealth building priorities; identify community assets; set out opportunities to tackle economic disadvantage and inequality; and seek to provide benefits for local communities</li> </ul>
<p>6. Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation</p>	<p>The subjects in this topic group are all directly related to managing and mitigating climate change and its impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Climate &amp; Nature Crisis</b> - LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.</li> <li>• <b>Climate Mitigation &amp; Adaptation</b> - The LDP spatial strategy should be designed to reduce, minimise or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. The six spatial principles help to guide development to, and create, sustainable locations. LDPs should support adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change by taking into account climate risks, guiding development away from vulnerable areas, and enabling places to adapt to risks.</li> <li>• <b>Flood Risk &amp; Water Management</b> - LDPs should account for probability of flooding from all sources and use flood risk and river basin management plans. Resilience should also be supported by managing the need to bring previously used sites in built up areas into positive use; planning for adaptation measures; and identifying opportunities to implement improvements to</li> </ul>

		<p>the water environment through natural flood risk management and blue green infrastructure. A precautionary approach should be taken, regarding the calculated probability of flooding as a best estimate, not a precise forecast. For areas where climate change is likely to result in increased flood exposure that becomes unmanageable, consideration should be given to alternative sustainable land use.</p>
7. Nature & Biodiversity	<p>The subjects in this topic group are all directly related to managing and mitigating the nature crisis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Biodiversity</b> - LDPs should protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy. Nature recovery and nature restoration should be promoted alongside nature networks and connections, restoring and creating habitats and incorporating measures to increase biodiversity, including populations of priority species.</li> <li>• <b>Natural Places</b> - LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts. Spatial strategies should also better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.</li> <li>• <b>Forestry, Woodland &amp; Trees</b> – The LDP spatial strategy should identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in the area, including their development, protection and enhancement, resilience to climate change, and the expansion of a range of types to provide multiple benefits. This will be supported and informed by a Forestry and Woodland Strategy.</li> <li>• <b>Soils</b> - LDPs should protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use.</li> </ul>
8. Energy and Resources	<p>The subjects in this topic group are concerned with energy and resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Energy</b> - LDPs should seek to realise their area’s full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources by identifying a range of opportunities for development.</li> <li>• <b>Zero Waste</b> - LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.</li> <li>• <b>Heating &amp; Cooling</b> - LDPs should take into account the area’s Local Heat &amp; Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The spatial strategy should take into account areas of heat network potential and any designated Heat Network Zones (HNZ).</li> <li>• <b>Minerals</b> - LDPs should support a landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10-years at all times in the relevant market areas, whilst promoting sustainable resource management, safeguarding important workable mineral resources, which are of economic or conservation value, and take steps to ensure these are not sterilised by other types of development.</li> </ul>

<p>9. Centres of Business and Culture</p>	<p>The subjects in this topic group are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City, Town, Local &amp; Commercial Centres</b> - LDPs should support sustainability and enhancements for the city centre and local and commercial centres. LDPs should identify a network of centres that reflect the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and the town centre vision. LDPs should be informed by evidence on where clustering of non-retail uses may be adversely impacting on the wellbeing of communities. They should also consider, and if appropriate, identify any areas where drive-through facilities may be acceptable where they would not negatively impact on the principles of local living or sustainable travel.</li> <li>• <b>Retail</b> - LDPs should consider where there may be a need for further retail provision. This should be informed by a retail study. There may be need for new centres to support new housing allocations. LDPs should identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink outlets will be supported.</li> <li>• <b>Tourism</b> - LDPs should support the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector. The spatial strategy should identify locations for tourism development by taking full account of the needs of communities, visitors, the industry and the environment. Relevant national and local sector driven tourism strategies should be taken into account. The spatial strategy should identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts and where further development is not appropriate</li> <li>• <b>Culture and Creativity</b> -LDPs should recognise and support opportunities for jobs and investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts.</li> </ul>
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