

Aberdeen Planning Guidance 2023: Energetica

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1. Introduction

1.1 Status of Aberdeen Planning Guidance

This Aberdeen Planning Guidance (APG) supports the Development Plan and is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

This APG relates to, and expands on the following policies in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan:

- Policy D1 – Quality Placemaking and Design

Given the timing of the Local Development Plan, a pragmatic approach has been taken to changes in the planning system. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) was adopted following the examination and subsequent modification of the Local Development, and the publication of a draft version of this APG for consultation. As a result, some terminology referred to in this APG may vary from the new NPF4 policy framework but it should be noted that the LDP together with NPF4 now forms the basis of the statutory development plan.

1.2 Introduction to Topic / Background

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, in collaboration with other key stakeholders, including Scottish Enterprise and ONE (Opportunity North East), support the Energetica project. Within the Energetica area development must make a contribution to the quality of life, environmental performance and economic development targets. This contribution will result in the transformation of the Energetica area into a high-quality lifestyle, leisure and, ultimately, a global business location showcasing the latest energy and low carbon technology.

1.3 Climate Change

This document strives to develop places which will encourage economic and social vitality whilst protecting existing places with sensitive environmental characteristics. Energetica seeks to showcase design which is innovative in the

field of environmental sustainability. This document therefore aligns with the [UN Sustainable Development Goal 9](#): Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. It also aligns with [Aberdeen Adapts](#) priorities for addressing climate change in the planning and build of city buildings and Goal 3 – Secure Utilities and Communication Networks.

1.4 Health and Wellbeing

Where we live, where we work, and where we spend our time has an important influence on our health and wellbeing. How places are designed within their urban or natural environment are vital to the health of the people and communities within them.

This guidance can help to achieve the following Public Health Priorities for Scotland - Priority 1: A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities.

This guidance is deemed to have minimal impact on population health and wellbeing. This means that, whilst it is unlikely a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) screening report will be requested to support any planning application, this will depend on the detail and scope of the application. There may be elements of the proposals that relate to the health and wellbeing of the population that warrant consideration. If that is the case, then a screening HIA will be required, and further advice on this will be provided.

2. Aberdeen Planning Guidance

2.1 Energetica

Energetica is a long-term programme which aims to create a world class energy corridor along the coastline from Peterhead to Bridge of Don. It seeks to achieve this aim by integrating two key components, **sustainable economic growth** and **quality of life**.

Energetica seeks to attract high value energy organisations to set up business in the corridor. This requires a skilled workforce.

Energetica seeks to attract a skilled workforce to live in the corridor. This requires high value jobs.

The guidance is primarily concerned with design and placemaking.

We will approve development in the Energetica area, subject to other policies, if:

- It is demonstrated through mix, use and design of structures, that innovation and experimentation have been employed in the pursuit of the highest levels of economic, social and environmental sustainability; AND
- It is demonstrated that the energy performance has been carefully considered in the design process and has resulted in buildings and layouts which have exemplary energy performance or introduce innovation in this regards; AND
- Buildings demonstrate future-proofing through flexibility in their design to allow for easy extension and/or conversion to other uses over the full life-span of the building; AND
- It is demonstrated that the layout and design of buildings promotes the creation of social hubs, civic spaces, streets as places and active frontages within developments; AND

- It is demonstrated that the implementation of open space requirements emphasize the aspiration for active lifestyles within the area; AND
- There is a commitment to the provision of high quality landscaping which contributes to a unified sense of place within the area.
- Major* developments will be required to demonstrate that the above criteria have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority as part of a Design and Access Statement. Local* developments are also encouraged to provide an Energetica Compliance Statement.

* as defined by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) (Hierarchy of Developments) (Regulations) 2009

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils accept that the scale of contribution made by the development to Energetica should be proportionate to the scale of the development proposed.

Where documents are subject to an agreed Masterplan or other design document as defined in the Council's guidance on Masterplanning, these should translate Energetica aspirations into layout and design of new developments to ensure a coherent identity in the Energetica area. This guidance does not apply to householder planning applications, advertisement consent or planning applications of an agricultural nature.

It is recognised that many of the planning and design actions required to achieve this ambition are common for all developments across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. In addition it is expected that development in the Energetica area will lead by example on issues such as: the mixture and co-location of facilities to create business villages; environmental sustainability and performance; landscape and greenspace management; travel; and built form.