

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Planning Development Management
DATE	20 June 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance: Health Impact Assessments.
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/24/190
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Donna Laing
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents a draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance (APG) document on Health Impact Assessments (Appendix 1). The report seeks approval to undertake public consultation on the document, with the results of the consultation and any revisions to the document reported back to the Planning Development Management Committee for approval within six months of the end of the consultation period.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the content of the draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance document; Health Impact Assessments (Appendix 1), and instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to, subject to any minor drafting changes, publish the draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance documents for an eight week non-statutory public consultation; and
- 2.2 Instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to report the results of the public consultation and any proposed revisions to the draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance to a subsequent Planning Development Management Committee within six months of the end of the consultation period.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Members will recall that the new Local Development Plan 2023 was formally adopted on 19 June 2023. The Local Development Plan focuses on the vision, spatial strategy and key policies and proposals for the future development of Aberdeen.
- 3.2 The Council can also adopt additional supporting guidance in connection with the Local Development Plan and this can be used to provide more detail on how its policies and proposals will be implemented. Appendix 4 of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 outlines the guidance expected to be produced. To date, the majority of this has now been adopted (please see Council Report COM/23/303). A further draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance document is now proposed; Health Impact Assessments. This has been produced to support content within the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023.
- 3.3 Through the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, there has been a renewed emphasis on rediscovering the relationship between health and wellbeing and placemaking. The Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 takes a proactive approach on this topic through Policy WB1: Healthy Developments, which emphasises the requirement for developments to provide healthy environments and promote physical and mental wellbeing. This was furthered by the requirement for national developments, major developments and those requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment to submit a Health Impact Assessment. The approach has been reinforced through the adoption of National Planning Framework 4; Policy 23: Health and Safety which intends to promote and facilitate development that improves health and wellbeing, and states that: *“Development proposals which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on health will not be supported. A Health Impact Assessment may be required”*.
- 3.4 The draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance on Health Impact Assessments has been developed in collaboration with colleagues from NHS Grampian Public Health Directorate, the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and supported by colleagues from Public Health Scotland. The draft document reiterates the relationship placemaking has to health and wellbeing, before outlining the steps required within a Health Impact Assessment, and how to undertake one. This draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance will aid understanding on the impact a development could have on population health, public human health and on reducing or preventing health inequalities. It is not to be used to assess the impact on an individual's health.
- 3.5 The draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance provides criteria for applicants to support them through the planning system, and provide guidance to planning officers when assessing planning applications or documents. The draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance: Health Impact Assessment will help to ensure developments have been assessed with a health lens. The document will help applicants, planning officers and other stakeholders and will ensure a consistent approach to decision making. In draft form the Aberdeen Planning Guidance will have little material weight when it comes to decision making on documents and planning applications.

- 3.7 Subject to Member approval, an eight week period of public consultation will be undertaken on the draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance document. This is expected to commence in summer 2024. The consultation document will be made available for inspection online and in Marischal College. The consultation will also be publicised through means such as the Local Development Plan newsletter, and the Council's website and social media platforms. Interested parties will be able to submit comments using the Council's consultation hub, email or post. All comments will be reviewed and taken into account to help formulate final versions of the Aberdeen Planning Guidance document, which will be reported back to Members for approval at a future meeting of the Planning Development Management Committee within six months of the end of the consultation period.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report as the cost of preparing Aberdeen Planning Guidance is met through existing staff time and resource budgets.
- 4.2 The guidance documents will help to mitigate any increase in applications and queries which will result in added pressure on the finances and staff resources of the Council's planning service.
- 4.3 As a major landowner in the City, proposals for the development of land and assets owned by Aberdeen City Council and any planning applications for development undertaken by or on behalf of the City Council will, where applicable, be subject to assessment against the proposed Aberdeen Planning Guidance. This may have financial implications for the Council as a developer.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The proposed Aberdeen Planning Guidance will be a material consideration to inform decisions on future planning applications in Aberdeen.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance document has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) pre-screening process in accordance with relevant legislation.

7. RISK

- 7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement

Management Of Risk

7.2 The Local Development Plan 2023 was recently adopted. The draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance documents support the new Local Development Plan and ensure continuity in the provision of comprehensive, up-to-date and relevant planning frameworks.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Not delivering the aims of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan	Ensure that robust and transparent consultation is undertaken in a timeous manner on the draft guidance document, and ensure that final versions of the guidance are adopted timeously.	L	Yes
Compliance	Ensuring compliance with National Planning Framework 4.	Ensure that robust and transparent consultation is undertaken in a timeous manner on the draft guidance document, and ensure that final versions of the guidance are adopted timeously.	L	Yes
Operational	By not providing guidance officers could, over time, provide inconsistent advice.	The document provides clarity, consistence and certainly in terms of assessment of planning applications.	L	Yes
Financial	Not having timeously published and adopted supporting guidance for the new Local Development	The document should reduce the number of queries and provide clarity, consistence and certainly in terms of assessment of planning applications.	L	Yes

	Plan could lead to uncertainty at planning application stage and potentially lead to more staff time being spent processing applications			
Reputational	Not providing guidance opens the possibility of inconsistency in decision making and misinformation in the public domain.	The document set parameters for the assessment of planning applications and documents requiring health impact assessments.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	Ensuring that planning frameworks take into consideration the relevant environmental and climate change legislation at the point of their development and production.	Ensure that robust and transparent consultation with statutory agencies is undertaken on the draft guidance document. Carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>Council Delivery Plan 2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
<p style="text-align: center;">Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u></p>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vibrant city Making our city a better place for people to live, work, raise a family and visit.

Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The APG will help with stretch outcome 4, improve health and reducing child poverty inequalities and stretch outcome 11: Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is 5 years longer by 2026; through encouraging adoption of healthier lifestyles through a whole family approach.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The APG will help with stretch outcome 14 through the key driver 14.1 Supporting different ways for active travel in everyday journeys, using partners and volunteers to address safety, infrastructure, fitness, well-being and confidence.
Regional and City Strategies	<u>City Strategies and Strategic Plans</u> The APG's will support the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 through providing more information on the content of the Plan. They will ensure Aberdeen is an excellent place to live, visit and do business.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 [National Planning Framework 4](#)
- 10.2 [Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023: Written Statement](#)
- 10.3 [Council Report COM/23/303: Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 – Proposed Aberdeen Planning Guidance and Supplementary Guidance](#)

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Proposed Draft Aberdeen Planning Guidance: Health Impact Assessments.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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