

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	06 August 2025
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Development Plan Scheme 2025
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CR&E/25/174
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	David Dunne
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Abigail Burrows
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	3.3

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the second annual update to the Development Plan Scheme for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the content of the updated Development Plan Scheme 2025 (Appendix 1) and instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to, subject to any minor drafting changes which he considers necessary, publish it in accordance with relevant legislation.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 A Development Plan Scheme is a document setting out a planning authority's programme for preparing and reviewing their Local Development Plan. Within the Development Plan Scheme a participation statement is required which the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, Section 20B (4) (c), sets out as *'an account of when consultation is likely to take place and with whom and of its likely form and of the steps to be taken to involve the public at large in the stages of preparation or review.'*
- 3.2 The Planning Authority is required to update its Development Plan Scheme every year. The initial Development Plan Scheme for the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan (programmed for adoption in 2028) was approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 06 July 2023 (COM/23/193). An update to Development Plan Scheme was subsequently approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 07 August 2024 (CR&E/24/213). The Development Plan Scheme 2025, attached as Appendix 1, represents the second annual update to the initial Development Plan Scheme.
- 3.3 The Development Plan Scheme sets out and explains each stage of preparing the next Local Development Plan. The first stage concerns production of an

Evidence Report, and the Development Plan Scheme outlines how the Planning Service has organised and consulted upon the Evidence Report. At the Council meeting on 03 July 2024 Members instructed the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to (1) carry out engagement to inform the production of the draft Evidence Report and associated documents; (2) carry out a formal consultation on the draft Evidence Report once produced; and (3) report the results of the consultation and finalised Evidence Report back to Council prior to being sent to the Scottish Ministers for Gate Check (CR&E/24/187). The second stage includes the submission of the Evidence Report to the Scottish Government ‘Gate Check’. The Gate Check is an external process undertaken by a Reporter from the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals. Council, at its meeting on 02 July 2025 instructed the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to submit the Evidence Report and appropriate supporting documentation to the Scottish Ministers to satisfy the requirements of the Gate Check process (CR&E/25/165).

- 3.4 The second stage also includes the ‘Call For Ideas’ and ‘Call for Sites’ stages. The ‘Call for Ideas’ stage is aimed at the general public and provides a further opportunity for people and organisations to put forward ideas for inclusion in the next Local Development Plan. The ‘Call for Sites’ is aimed at developers / landowners to submit sites that they believe should be allocated for development in the next Local Development Plan. The Call for Ideas has already been informed by the results of the ‘Your Place, Your Plan, Your Future’ engagement and will build upon these results.
- 3.5 The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023, Regulation 22 (2), states that if the timetable included in a Development Plan Scheme for a Local Development Plan differs from that identified within its previous Development Plan Scheme, the Local Authority must identify these changes and set out the reasons for them.
- 3.6 The timeline for delivery of the Local Development Plan 2028, as outlined in the Development Plan Scheme 2025, has been amended. This is due to an extension afforded to the ‘Call for Sites’ stage in the production of the next Local Development Plan. In the previous iteration of the report; the Development Plan Scheme 2024, the Call for Sites stage was anticipated to be completed within Q2 2025/26. However, a 12-week consultation period has been incorporated into this year’s timetable to ensure that sufficient time is given for submissions to be made. This was decided due to feedback received from the development industry to ensure they have sufficient time to prepare submissions. This extension does not impact any other stages within the overall timetable, and subsequent stages will commence as predicted in the previous Development Plan Scheme timetable. Overall, the intended adoption date for the new Local Development Plan remains unchanged at circa Q1 2028/29 (Apr-Jun 2028). This is in line with Scottish Government expectations for all local authorities to have a new style Local Development Plan in place by May 2028.
- 3.7 There are also minor amendments to the Development Plan Scheme 2025 which outline the progress that has been made since the publication of the Development Plan Scheme 2024. These amendments include updates regarding the completion of Stage One in the production of the new Local

Development Plan - the Evidence Report. This includes more detail outlining how the Evidence Report was written, and an overview of the consultation process. Further detail has also been added to outline the proceeding steps that will take place in order to progress Stages Two and Three in the production of the next Local Development Plan. Finally, the Development Plan Scheme 2025 also captures the Council's updated platform for engagement, which is now channelled through CommonPlace.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of preparing the Development Plan Scheme and the Local Development Plan will be met through existing budgets.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, Section 20B (2) (b), requires that a Development Plan Scheme is to be prepared by each planning authority within one year after last preparing such a scheme. The last Development Plan Scheme was published just under one year ago, and the proposed Development Plan Scheme 2025 therefore complies with this requirement.

#### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no significant environmental implications with regards to the Development Plan Scheme. The Local Development Plan itself will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

#### 7. RISK

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?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	If the Development Plan Scheme is not timeously adopted then a new plan process will be undertaken without the publication of a document that sets out the processes and methods of engagement.	Approve the updated Development Plan Scheme in order for the Council to comply with legislation.	L	Yes
<b>Compliance</b>	Ensuring that the Development Plan Scheme can be	Approve the updated Development	L	Yes

	adopted at the earliest opportunity in order to comply with the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.	Plan Scheme in order for the Council to comply with legislation in a timeous manner.		
<b>Operational</b>	Ensuring that the Development Plan Scheme can be timeously published in order to support the new plan process.	Approve the updated Development Plan Scheme in order for the Council to comply with legislation in a timeous manner which allows for the smooth and transparent operation of the new local development plan process.	L	Yes
<b>Financial</b>	It is important that the planning authority complies with legislation and publishes a Development Plan Scheme in a timeous manner otherwise it leaves the Council open to complaint and possible legal challenge in the future with respect to whether proposed consultation has been sufficiently set out in advance.	Approve the updated Development Plan Scheme in order for the Council to comply with legislation in a timeous manner which allows for the smooth and transparent operation of the new Local Development Plan process.	L	Yes
<b>Reputational</b>	The planning authority has consistently published a Development Plan Scheme each year to allow for clarity and transparency of the development plan process. Failure to continue this could	Approve the updated Development Plan Scheme in order for the Council to comply with legislation in a timeous manner which allows for the smooth and	L	Yes

	damage the Council's reputation as a planning authority.	transparent operation of the new local development plan process.		
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	Ensuring that the Development Plan Scheme is in place as it includes provisions for consultation with bodies, groups and individuals who wish to protect the natural environment and reduce carbon emissions.	Approve the updated Development Plan Scheme in order for the Council to comply with legislation in a timeous manner which allows for the smooth and transparent operation of the new local development plan process.	L	Yes

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b><u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023</u></b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>  <u><a href="#">Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</a></u>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspects of the policy statement:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowering Aberdeen's Communities – the Development Plan Scheme sets out the Council's commitment to working with communities and other stakeholders in the preparation of a new Local Development Plan. This includes collaboration with Community Councils with regards Local Place Plans which may include aspirations of community, wealth building and other community assets.</li> <li>• A Transparent, Accessible and Accountable Council - the Development Plan Scheme sets out in Plain English how we will work with communities to develop the next Local Development Plan.</li> </ul>
<u><a href="#">Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</a></u>	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 5 by ensuring that children and young people feel listened to in terms of the

	consultation process in the preparation of a new Local Development Plan.
<b>Regional and City Strategies</b> Local Development Plan	The proposal within this report supports the production of a future Aberdeen Local Development Plan which will eventually replace the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	Previous Integrated Impact Assessment relating to CR&E/24/213 has been reviewed and changes made.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required.
<b>Other</b>	N/A

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

## 11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Development Plan Scheme 2025

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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