

APPENDIX 3 - Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan: Publicity and Consultation

There have been substantial opportunities for individuals, community groups, community councils, developers, landowners, key agencies and business interests to submit views on what should be included in the new Aberdeen Local Development Plan. A review of the current Plan started with a non-statutory Pre-Main Issues Report consultation which ran from 15 April until 14 June 2013.

The Local Development Plan team organised eight events across the City inviting members of the public to put their views across and help draft the Main Issues Report. Workshops were all held in public buildings which were accessible to all. Community Councils and Key Agencies were invited to the events. We advertised the events to the public in a number of ways including a newspaper articles before the events, posters in the local libraries and supermarkets, information on the Council website and the City Centre Pillars. Posters were also sent to Sports Aberdeen and Community Councils to distribute posters. We also held a drop in session at Marischal College, one afternoon, for those who could not attend an evening workshop.

The Local Development Plan team also designed a questionnaire that was made available on the web and in paper that gave the opportunity to comment on the main planning issues the city faces. Paper copies were sent round the local libraries and was made available in Marischal College and at the consultation workshops we held. We received 59 representations.

The Local Development Plan team received 83 bids for sites to be included in the Local Development Plan. As well as holding workshops and making questionnaires available we also tried two new methods of engagement through the Pre-Main Issues Report, these were a Youth Engagement Programme and Community Council Toolkits.

The aim of our Youth Engagement Programme has been to promote the important role young people can play in looking into the future of places and expressing how they think they should be designed and planned. We wrote to every secondary school in the city to invite them to take part in our Youth Engagement Programme. This was very successful with 8 schools signing up.

The Local Development Plan team designed Community Council Toolkits to give Community Councils the chance to record the main planning issues affecting their local area. Each Community Council was contacted to ask if they would like to take part. This was very successful and we received 16 toolkits.

A Main Issues Report was then published in January 2014 which suggested options for the spatial strategy and other land use planning policies. We held nine drop-in events about the Main Issues Report in different neighbourhoods across the city. Almost 350 people, businesses and/or other organisations

sent in comments from the questionnaire that was made available. These were analysed and responded to as we moved on to prepare the Proposed Plan. As well as drop-in events and questionnaire the Local Development Plan team organised a workshop focused on retail in the city centre and ran another stage of the Youth Engagement Programme.

The city centre workshop ran with the participation of Councillors, members of the City Centre business community and City Centre community groups. The session consisted of a presentation outlining the Aberdeen Local Development Plan - Main Issues Report by a member of the Local Development Plan team and then a presentation by Keith Hargest on the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Retail Study (2013) and its implications for Aberdeen City Centre. The presentations were then followed by facilitated workshops.

We wrote to every secondary school in the city to invite them to take part in our Youth Engagement Programme. This stage of the Youth Engagement Programme focussed on the city centre and seven schools signed up to take part.

As the Proposed Plan contains the planning authority's settled view as to what the final adopted content of the Local Development Plan should be, there would be no purpose in holding consultation events similar in form to those held at the Pre-Main Issues Report stage and Main Issues Report stage. We are no longer at the stage of **consulting** people about what should be in the Plan as the Council will have taken a decision on that. At this stage, therefore, our focus has to be on **informing** people of its content, and **advising** them of the process for making representations and the next steps in the process.

Legal Requirements

When the Proposed Plan is published, planning legislation requires us to do the following:-

- publish a notice in one or more local newspapers explaining that the document has been produced and stating where and when it may be viewed. The notice must give a brief description of the content and purpose of the document; provide details of how further information may be obtained; and contain a statement that representations may be made, and describing how, to whom and by when they should be made.
- this information must also be sent to key agencies (e.g. Scottish Water, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Enterprise, Historic Scotland, Transport Scotland, NESTRANS, NHS Grampian), Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Authority), and community councils.
- make copies of the Proposed Plan available to inspect at our offices and in public libraries and publish it on the internet.
- send a copy of the Proposed Plan to each key agency.
- consult the key agencies and Scottish Ministers.
- notify anyone who commented on the Main Issues Report.

- notify the owners, lessees or occupiers of sites and the owners, lessees or occupiers of neighbouring sites which the proposed plan specifically proposes to be developed and which would have a significant effect on the use and amenity of the site.
- allow at least six weeks for representations to be made.

Participation Statement Requirements

We will do all of this, but will additionally do the following, as agreed in our participation statement which was approved by the EPI Committee in January 2014:-

- inform community groups and other stakeholders;
- run drop-in events to give people the chance to meet and discuss the Proposed Plan with members of the Local Development Plan team;
- make a presentation to key agencies, stakeholders and interested groups;
- hold a consultation period of 10 weeks, four weeks longer than the statutory minimum; and
- email a newsletter about the Proposed Plan to agencies, developers and those who have expressed an interest in the Local Development Plan. The newsletter will also be available on the Local Development Plan pages of our website and publicised over social media.

Additional Measures

In addition, we propose:-

- publishing an advice note, explaining the procedures involved in making representations and setting out the next steps in the process;
- holding a meeting with community council representatives to explain what's in the Proposed Plan and the process for making representations; and
- send the Proposed Plan to, or inform, a broad list of groups and agencies as set out in the list in Table 1 below.

Staffed Exhibitions

We propose organising a series of staffed exhibitions at 7 venues across the city. These would provide an opportunity for people to drop-in and view the content of the Proposed Plan. Planning officers would be present to answer questions and explain the next stages in the process. Advice would also be offered on how to make representations. These staffed exhibitions would be held on one day at each venue from approximately 4-7pm, although times can vary according to the venue.

Dates and venues have still to be arranged but the proposed locations are:-

Bridge of Don
 Bucksburn
 Northfield
 Kingswells
 Deeside
 Loirston/Cove
 City Centre

Stakeholder Groups

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Aberdeen Airports Ltd.
Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority
Aberdeen City Heritage Trust
Aberdeen Civic Society
Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations
Aberdeen Cycle Forum
Aberdeen Harbour Board
Aberdeen Outdoor Access Forum
Aberdeen Renewables Energy Group
Aberdeen Solicitors and Property Centre
Aberdeen Trades Council
Aberdeenshire Council
ACSEF
Association of Builders & Developers
BAA Scotland
Centrica
Civil Aviation Authority
Developer Obligations Team
Federation of Small Businesses
Forestry Authority
Forestry Commission Scotland
Freight Transport Association
Friends of the Earth
Grampian Primary Care NHS Trust
Health and Safety Executive
HSE Hazardous Installations Directorate
Historic Scotland
Homes for Scotland
Marine Scotland
National Grid
NATS
NESTRANS
Network Rail
NHS Grampian
North East Scotland College & Gallowgate Library
Police Scotland
Regional Ecumenical Team
RICS North East Branch
Robert Gordon University
Rowett Research Institute
Royal Town Planning Institute (Scotland)
RSPB
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Ambulance Service
Scottish and Southern Hydro Electric
Scottish Enterprise Grampian
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Scottish Gas plc.
Scottish Government Housing Investment Team
Scottish Natural Heritage (Grampian)
Scottish Water
Scottish Wildlife Trust
SEA Gateway
SEPA
SportScotland
Transport Scotland
University of Aberdeen

Community Councils

Ashley and Broomhill
Bridge of Don
Bucksburn and Newhills
Castlehill and Pittodrie
City Centre
Cove and Altens
Craigiebuckler and Seafield
Culter
Cults, Bielside and Milltimber
Dyce and Stoneywood
Ferryhill
Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank
Garthdee
George Street
Kincorth and Leggart
Kingswells
Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Summerhill
Nigg
Northfield
Old Aberdeen
Queens Cross and Harlaw
Rosemount and Mile End
Tillydrone
Torry

Communities of Interest Forums

Aberdeen Action on Disability

Aberdeen City Youth Council

Aberdeen Women's Alliance

Disability Advisory Group

North East Sensory Services

The Ethnic Minority Forum

Older People's Working Group

Terrence Higgins Trust