

Aberdeen Local Development Plan - Proposed 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. We initially offered an open invitation, in late 2008-early 2009 for ideas about where new development should go. These 'development options' were discussed with local people at a series of eight consultation events in early summer 2009, five organised by the City Council and three by community councils. These meetings gave people an opportunity to make comments on the possible sites. We then assessed all the options against a number of factors, such as accessibility, environmental sensitivities and the capacity of roads and schools. We also took account of comments received before forming an opinion on which sites might be desirable.

A Main Issues Report was then published in autumn 2009 which suggested options for meeting the identified future housing and employment land needs of the city and explored options for other land use planning policies. We held ten consultation events about the Main Issues Report in different neighbourhoods and over 600 people attended. Almost 1,000 people, businesses and/or other organisations sent in comments. These were analysed and responded to as we moved on to prepare the Proposed Plan.

As the Proposed Plan now 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 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 February 2010:-

- email a newsletter about the Proposed Plan to agencies, developers and those who have expressed an interest in the Local Development Plan.
- inform community groups and other stakeholders
- make a presentation to the Land Use Forum and invite other Forums to this meeting.
- send the Proposed Plan to, or inform, a broad list of groups and agencies as set out in the list in Table 1 below.

Additional Measures

In addition, we propose:-

- allowing 12 weeks for representations to be made, rather than the 6 weeks minimum, to allow people adequate time to consider and respond to the Plan.
- 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.

Staffed Exhibitions

Although we do not recommend holding any public meetings or workshop groups we propose organising a series of staffed exhibitions at eight 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 4-7pm.

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

Bridge of Don

Bucksburn

Northfield

Mastrick/Sheddocksley

Kingswells

Cults or Milltimber

Loirston/Cove
Airyhall
City Centre

Stakeholder Groups

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

Community Councils

Ashley and Broomhill	George Street
Braeside and Mannofield	Kincorth/ Leggart
Bridge of Don	Kingswells
Buckburn and Newhills	Mastrick and Sheddocksley
Cove and Altens	Nigg
Craigiebuckler/ Seafield Culter	Northfield
Cults, Bielside and Milltimber	Old Aberdeen

Dyce and Stoneywood
Froghall
Garthdee

Challenge Forums

Leading the City
Community Engagement
Locality Planning
Health and Social Care
Homes
Land Use
Environment
Transport and Communications
Prosperity and Jobs
Image
Lifelong Learning
Arts, Heritage and Sport
Equality Action Network

Queens Cross and Harlaw
Rosemount and Mile End
Tillydrone

Torry

Communities of Interest Forums

Ethnic Minority Forum
Aberdeen Women's Alliance
Youth Action Committee
Disability Action Group
Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and
Transgender Forum
Aberdeen Senior Citizens Forum
Community Regeneration Forum
Gypsy Traveller Community