

Appendix 1 – PLA/23/217 Aberdeen Planning Guidance (APG): Outdoor Seating Summary of responses and issues arising from public consultation		
Representation received	Officer Response	Action as a result of Representation
Comments from Business Owners		
General Support		
<p>Keep outdoor seating at establishments. They increase revenue, they increase employment and they bring a new dynamic to the city. The outdoor additions should remain and provide much greater benefit to the city and local areas than any possible drawbacks. I have the relevant information to make an informed decision.</p> <p>The council should be doing more to encourage outdoor seating areas within the hospitality industry. Why has it taken so long?</p> <p>Larger pavements with less city centre traffic. It's good to see what work is being done in the city, well done.</p>	<p>We welcome the support for outdoor seating and its benefits.</p> <p>Existing planning policy supports café culture – guidance on street cafes can be found within existing planning document, the Harmony of Uses Supplementary Guidance. The Aberdeen Planning Guidance document provides further information on what is required in terms on planning permission.</p> <p>The City Centre Masterplan promotes less city traffic and work is underway to progress many of the streetscape projects within it.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p>
Comments from Organizations		
General Support		
<p>Separate permission is required for trunk roads - a permit by Transport Scotland. Without this permission Transport Scotland will take enforcement action in such cases. Transport Scotland would require to be</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>	<p>No revision required. Transport Scotland would be consulted on relevant planning applications.</p>

<p>consulted on any planning application that includes proposals for outdoor seating, as defined within this guidance, that would be located within the adopted trunk road boundary.</p> <p>Scottish Water do not have any objection to the guidance.</p> <p>It should be noted that Scottish Water require 24-hour access to footpaths or roads in order to access, maintain or renew our assets and/or infrastructure. If necessary, we reserve the right to temporarily suspend outdoor seating at any venue as required for the duration of the works.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required. This would be addressed through the Café Permit from the Roads Authority.</p>
<p>Comments from Individuals</p>		
<p>General Support – General support and further comment.</p>		
<p>Allowing outdoor seating is a fantastic idea. More café culture is needed. It is the norm in other cities and has positive benefits for tourism. It will add vibrancy to the city.</p> <p>Affordable parking facilities to encourage customers to visit the city centre is needed. Pricing has to be considered.</p> <p>Heaters will be required. Seagulls will need to be addressed.</p>	<p>We welcome the support for outdoor seating.</p> <p>Parking fees are outwith the remit of the planning authority. The document relates to planning considerations when determining applications of that nature.</p> <p>The use of heating is not within the remit of the planning service. This is covered within other consent process. The document notes that proposals should be mindful of energy use and emissions.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p>

<p>Don't understand why No10 beer garden disappeared. Need tables and chairs in sunnier areas if the city to take advantage of the good weather.</p>	<p>The structure mentioned was subject to a planning application once the temporary measures to ensure spaces for people during the height of the COVID pandemic were removed.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>There should be clear guidance on any outdoor seating covered or uncovered should be non smoking.</p>	<p>The legislation surrounding smoking and non-smoking areas is outwith the remit of the planning service.</p>	<p>Added text to document to highlight other consent processes.</p>
<p>Pedestrianisation of more areas in the city centre. Perhaps reviewing permitted development to identify other uses that could be supported in the city centre.</p>	<p>Pedestrianisation is outwith the scope of the document. Permitted Development is the remit of the Scottish Government.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>Air Quality needs to be considered.</p>	<p>Environmental Health are a consultee in planning applications for outdoor seating and will make comment on air quality.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>Cafes should be open longer.</p>	<p>Hours of operation falls within the remit of the owners and environmental health who are consultees in planning applications for outdoor seating.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>You need to think about utilities.</p>	<p>Planning applications for outdoor seating are sent to a number of consultees including utilities companies, who make comment on the application.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>Designs should be of a high quality.</p>	<p>The planning document provides guidance on design, which is to be of a high quality</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>Get the bins off the streets and make the streets people friendly again.</p>	<p>Work in making the streets people friendly is being actioned through the City Centre Masterplan.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>

<p>Close Union Street to traffic and encourage hospitality into these spaces (also reduce the astronomical business rates to).</p>	<p>The pedestrianisation of the area noted was subject to a Council decision on 29 June 2022. Pedestrianisation is outwith the scope of the outdoor seating guidance document</p>	<p>No revision required</p>
<p>Not required</p>		
<p>Please remove all outdoor seating. Safety for the partially sighted.</p> <p>We do not have the weather to sustain outdoor seating.</p> <p>The pavements aren't wide enough for outside seating. The parks should be left alone. Antisocial behaviour is bad enough in the city centre. Outside drinking only makes this worse. People live in the city centre.</p>	<p>Safety is addressed through further consent process - for example the Café Permit from the Roads Authority. The document relates to planning issues only.</p> <p>The use of heating is not within the remit of the planning service.</p> <p>The Roads Authority are a consultee in planning permission applications for outdoor seating, and assess applications on safety, including pavement width. The document provides guidance on outdoor seating and public open space and notes the principles of being a good neighbour. Environmental Health are a consultee in planning permission applications for outdoor seating, and assess applications for impact. Outdoor seating has a wider remit than licensed premises.</p>	<p>Added text to document to highlight other consent processes.</p> <p>Added text to document to highlight other consent processes.</p> <p>Added text to document to highlight the wider remit of outdoor seating.</p>
<p>Spaces for people related comments</p>		
<p>The wooden social distancing ones became an eyesore.</p> <p>Safe must be maintained. Thought should be given on the road layout for traffic when considering outdoor seating on Belmont Street.</p>	<p>The document relates to structures where planning permission is required, and not those put in place as a temporary measure to ensure spaces for people during the height of the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>The Roads Authority is a consultee for planning applications to outdoor seating.</p>	<p>Added text to document to highlight other consent processes.</p> <p>No revision required.</p>

<p>The whole point of the outdoor seating was to reduce the risk from Covid 19, not increase the premises capacity.</p> <p>Please do not allow Bars / Restaurants to take over the Rubislaw Gardens again. What happened to planning regs. Plastic windowed tents are not attractive. Several of these appear unsafe and unsightly. Some of the outdoor seating we have just now is an eyesore, it looks dirty & needs a good scrub.</p> <p>Doesn't leave much room in these one way streets for emergency services.</p> <p>Focus on reworking the city centre.</p>	<p>The document supports café culture and promotes the use of outdoor space to facilitate this.</p> <p>The structure noted was erected during the pandemic where national legislation relaxed the requirement for planning permission for such structures. The National relaxation of planning permission for outdoor seating structures came to an end at the end of September 2022. These structures now require planning permission and other consents. The document provides guidance on outdoor seating and public open space.</p> <p>Planning applications on outdoor seating are subject to consultation with Roads Authority who assess them and make comment relating to maintaining clear passageways and safety.</p> <p>The City Centre Masterplan is looking at long term plans to increase the vitality and vibrancy of the City Centre, this includes looking at incentives for 6 areas within the City Centre</p>	<p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p>
<p>Comments on content of the document</p>		
<p>Seems comprehensive, but more pedestrian/cycle space to support more outdoor seating is required. Road space should be sacrificed over bus lanes, cycle lanes and pedestrians/cycle pavements. If a venue has outdoor seating then it should, or the council should, provide secure cycle parking points within the vicinity (preferably visible from said location).</p>	<p>We welcome support for the document. The current temporary outdoor seating structure in many areas of the city were put in place under temporary legislation. This has been removed. Under the extant rules outdoor seating would not be permitted on road ways . cyclelanes, Pedestrianisation is outwith the scope of the document, and the planning service. The Roads Authority are a consultee in planning permission applications for</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>

<p>Disagree with the view that the seating areas should be directly linked to the buildings they serve.</p>	<p>outdoor seating, and make comment on safety, space and cycle parking.</p> <p>The guidance note states clear routes must be maintained, and that crossing a footway should generally be avoided. The document does not state seating areas should be directly linked to the building they serve.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>Roads in certain zones should be turned over to seating.</p>	<p>Pedestrianisation is outwith the scope of the document, and the planning service. The Roads Authority are a consultee in planning permission applications for outdoor seating, and make comment on safety, space and parking.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>The current guidelines seem sufficient and agree that they should not obstruct pavements and pedestrians however with reduced footfall on Union Street surely more can be done in terms of incentives, reduced rates. Castlegate need to be addressed.</p>	<p>We welcome the support for the document. The current policy approach and document supports café culture in Aberdeen and provides guidance to applicants should they wish to submit an application.</p> <p>The City Centre Masterplan is looking at incentives for 6 areas within the City Centre including those mentioned. Safety and pavement width is addressed through further consent process - the café permit from Roads Authority.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>
<p>greening - maintenance proposal should be provided - lighting is very important also for health reasons - I strongly disagree with continuity with surrounding area. We need colour, variety, we need to be inspired. - environmental impact like reduction in CO2/fuel use should be mentioned as desirable - to be practical this guide should include useful links to design examples, environmental guidance and lighting.</p>	<p>The maintenance of private structures is the responsibility of the individuals who have commissioned them. Lighting falls within the remit of environmental health who are consultees in planning applications for outdoor seating. The document notes design should be of a high quality. The final published document will include images; this is a draft for consultation. The erection of outdoor seating requires different consent processes from different profession—links to the different</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>

<p>Outdoor seating should not impede disabled access. Nor be intrusive in comparison to its surroundings eg if in conservation area. Anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol consumption should be addressed.</p> <p>The only objection I would have is that the council is putting possible limitations on use of hotel car parks. The Dutch Mill and The Chester Hotel have had very successful outdoor seating areas in their car parks for two years now and these are a great asset to the city.</p> <p>A number of the outdoor areas currently in the city are in place to supplement licensed establishments. Placing licensing outside/adjacent to this framework is simply wrong.</p> <p>Premises seeking to use outdoor spaces should ensure they have neighbouring property agreement.</p> <p>outdoor seating should fit within the footprint of the proprietors' existing premises and not impact adjacent</p>	<p>departments are noted at the end of the guidance document.</p> <p>Planning applications on outdoor seating are subject to consultation with Roads Authority who assess them and make comment relating to maintaining a clear passageway and safety. The planning guidance notes applications have to be suitable for their context. Licensing is outwith the remit of the planning authority. The document links to other consents which are required for outdoor seating applications. The purpose of the document is to encourage a range of outdoor seating for all.</p> <p>–Parameters on what will be considered acceptable in planning terms are outlined within the planning guidance. Structures erected during COVID were party to different temporary legislation - which has now been removed.</p> <p>Licensing is not the remit of the planning authority and all current processes around obtaining a premises license still apply.</p> <p>The guidance relates to planning permission only. The document notes the principles of being a good neighbour.</p> <p>Occupation of the pavement is assessed through a separate process, the Café Permit which is the remit of</p>	<p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p> <p>Added text to document to highlight other consent processes.</p> <p>No revision required.</p> <p>Added text to document to highlight other consent processes.</p>
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<p>roads and pavements. Economic impact. Ensuring other facilities (eg toilets and kitchens) can cope with the increased headcount.</p> <p>Under “Design”, change ‘high quality’ to ‘sufficiently quality’ (or equivalent).</p> <p>The location should be considered in respect of any potential detriment (eg harassment) on persons attending nearby premises. There is no need for amplified music outside premises at any time of day, or night. Given the current awareness of the importance of ample and quality rest, this should be paramount in consideration of proposals to allow such intrusion into people’s lives.</p> <p>This kind of development, ie. Outdoor, or, specifically, pavement tables, should be restricted to the City Centre and commercial areas. The small area that has been allowed in Old Aberdeen is problematic – pavement blocking. Pavement cafes would distract from the historic vernacular streetscape, and the setting of the listed buildings and Conservation Area.</p>	<p>the Roads Authority. Toilet facilities and kitchen provision is not subject to planning permission.</p> <p>Policy D1 – Quality Placemaking of the Local Development Plan notes that all development must ensure a high standard of design. Keeping the design quality high will ensure the development complies with the overarching Policy D1.</p> <p>The document notes the principles of being a good neighbour. Planning applications on outdoor seating are subject to consultation with Environmental Health who assess the proposals and make comment, especially concerning noise and impact.</p> <p>The Roads Authority assess applications for safety. The document provides guidance on the design of outdoor seating, encouraging high quality, and continuity of design with any surrounding premises. There is guidance given on related to conservation areas and listed buildings. Comments noted as they relate to a specific premises and not the guidance document.</p>	<p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p> <p>No revision required.</p>
<p>Comments relating to one premise</p>		
<p>Business Owner</p>		
<p>I would like to support the outside seating area at the Dutch Mill Hotel. It employs many people and is run in a</p>	<p>Comments relate to a specific premises and not to the content of the guidance document</p>	<p>No revision required.</p>

safe and clean environment and puts money back in to the local community every month.		
Individuals		
Support the proposal at the Dutch Mill. It is well supported, great space for people to meet and adds value and vibrancy to the city in Aberdeen. There are no noise issues, it provides income and employs staff.	Comments relate to a specific premises and not to the content of the guidance document.	No revision required.