

# ABER DEEN SHIRE

Local Development Plan  
**2029-2039**



Development Plan Scheme 2024

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## 1 Introduction

This Development Plan Scheme presents information on the preparation of the next Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan, which is programmed to be adopted in 2029. A local development plan is used in the determination of planning applications, and it zones land for development (known as allocations) or protects it for specific uses.

Aberdeenshire Council is required to prepare and publish a Development Plan Scheme at least once a year.

Since the last Development Plan Scheme in May 2023 certainty for the plan-making process has been provided by the Local Development Plans Guidance published by the Scottish Government in May 2023.

This Development Plan Scheme is divided into three sections: Firstly, it makes clear what the Development Plan is in Aberdeenshire.

Secondly, it sets out the draft programme for preparation of the Local Development Plan 2029, including key stages that will be met.

Finally, in a formal “Participation Statement”, it explains how we undertake consultation with individuals, communities and other stakeholders in the production of the plan.

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## 2 The Current Development Plan

In Aberdeenshire, the current development plan is made up of three documents. These are the “National Planning Framework”, the “Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan” and “Supplementary Guidance”.

### National Planning Framework 4

On the 13 February 2023, the Scottish Government published National Planning Framework 4 and it is now part of the development plan for Aberdeenshire. It provides a national perspective on development, and sets out national planning policies, which are used in the determination of planning applications. The national spatial strategy supports the delivery of sustainable places, liveable places and productive places.

### The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023

On 13 January 2023 Aberdeenshire Council adopted the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023, following a public examination conducted by the Scottish Government.

This was the third Local Development Plan to be produced by Aberdeenshire Council and it replaced the previous plan, published in 2017.

The Local Development Plan covers the whole of Aberdeenshire, except that part within the Cairngorms National Park. They have their own Local Development Plan.



Figure 1 Area of effect of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

### Supplementary Guidance

Supplementary Guidance is the name given to policy introduced after the adoption of the Local Development Plan. It is being phased out through the enactment of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and will not feature in the next Local Development Plan.

One piece of Supplementary Guidance, “Developer Obligations and Affordable Housing”, supports the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023. This was adopted as part of the Local Development Plan by Aberdeenshire Council in January 2024.

Planning Advice has also been prepared to help people understand specific policies and deliver the Local Development Plan. This sets out the information that may be required to demonstrate that the terms of the policies have been met for the benefit of developers and communities (available at <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/planning-advice/>).

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### 3 Stages of Plan Development

There are four elements required to prepare the next Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan:

#### 1. Data Collection

Before preparing a local development plan, we will have to prepare an **Evidence Report** to identify appropriate information and evidence to form the basis for the next plan.. Following a **Gate Check** process, we will conduct a **Call for Ideas** to gain feedback from communities and stakeholders on how we should address the issues identified in a local context.

#### 2. Preparation of the Local Development Plan

We will seek instruction from the Area Committees of Aberdeenshire Council on the proposals that should be included in the **Proposed Local Development Plan**, prepare that Plan and publish it for public comment. We will assess comments made and seek to introduce modifications to the Plan to address issues raised, where appropriate, as identified in a **Modification Report**.

#### 3. Examination

We will submit the Modified Proposed Local Development Plan for **Examination** by Scottish Ministers and, following the conclusion of that process, adopt the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2029.

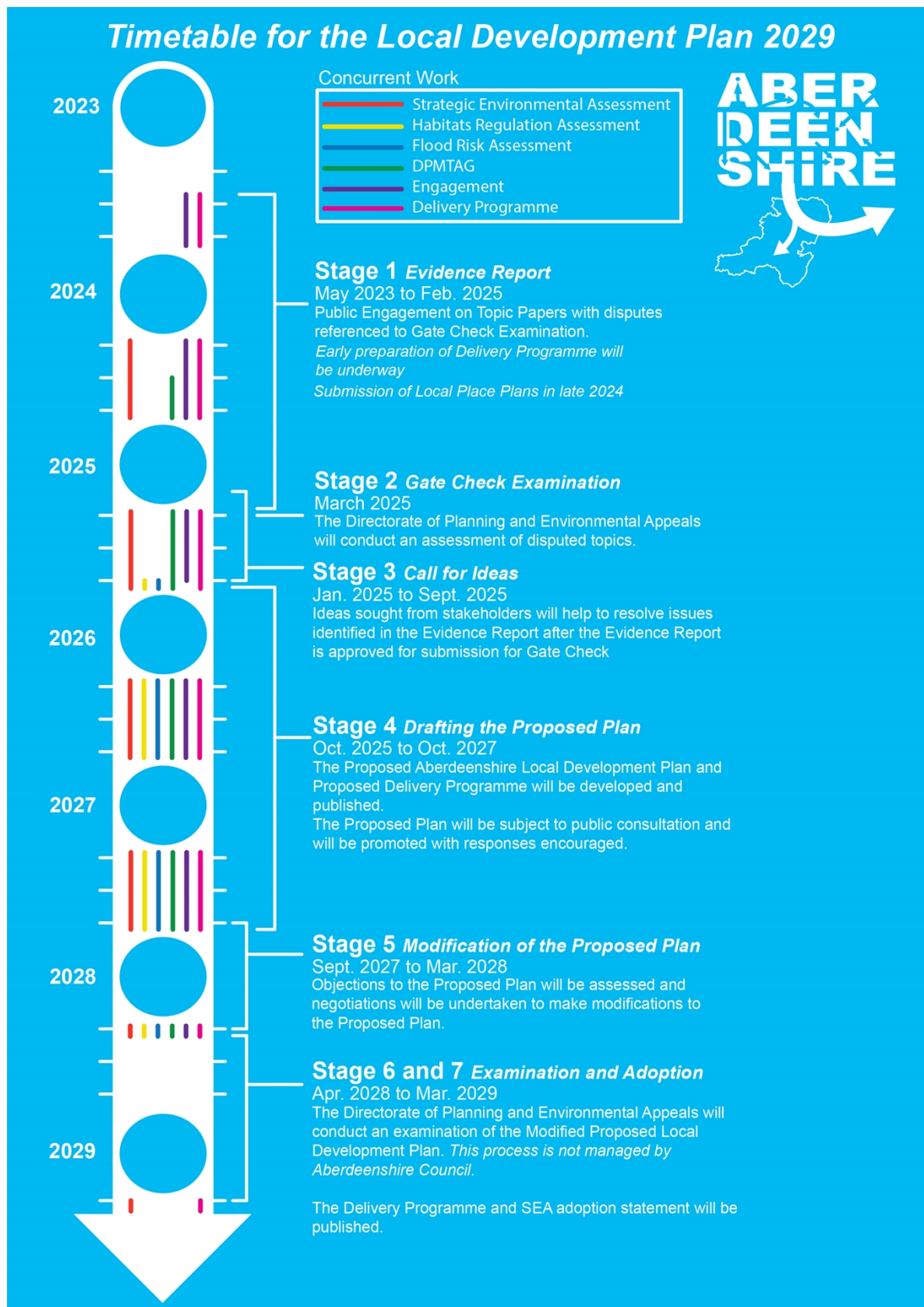
#### 4. Delivery Programme

Following the guidance provided by Scottish Ministers, the 2029 Local Development Plan will be accompanied by a new style **Delivery Programme**. The Delivery Programme will set out how Aberdeenshire Council proposes to implement its Local Development Plan, it is part of the project management toolkit which helps the Local Development Plan process focus on delivery and achieving its intended outcomes. It should set out a clear pathway for the delivery of homes, specifying the actions and timescales required, whilst considering constraints, costs, infrastructure requirements and developer obligations.

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# The Timetable for The Local Development Plan 2029

The programme for the Local Development Plan 2029 spans a period of approximately 5 years with a number of key milestones.



## 4 Engagement processes

In 2023 the Scottish Government published draft guidance on effective community engagement intended to be used by planning authorities as a sense check when planning their engagement. This document identifies levels of engagement and a spectrum of participation that usefully informs different levels of engagement that are appropriate to policy preparation activity. This spectrum identifies 5 levels of engagement: **Informing; Consulting, Involving, Collaborating and Empowering**. Details of the activity appropriate to each of these levels is set out in an extract from “Effective Community Engagement in Local Development Planning Guidance” in **Appendix 1**. This is intended to be used by planning authorities as a sense check when planning their engagement.

Table 1 shows an outline of engagement activities for each stage of the plan making process. (Please note that the indicative timescales for later years may be subject to review and this table will be updated as part of annual reporting of the Development Plan Scheme). Key to note within this table are the delays that have occurred since publication of the Development plan Scheme 2023. These are associated with the unforeseen work that has resulted from the preparation of the Open Space Audit, where survey of open space within settlements has taken considerably longer than was originally anticipated, and issues associated with a revised date of publication of the Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy, which has occurred due to delays associated with the [Housing Needs and Demands Assessment](#). This was not approved until January 2024. The Local Housing Strategy is critical for the “Quality Homes” topic paper and the establishment of a Local Housing Land Requirement, particularly the number of homes that we should plan for. The Local Housing Strategy is expected to be published in September 2024.

*Table 1 Stages of the Development Plan. (active work being undertaken is shown in the highlighted cells of this table)*

Stage	Year	Engagement proposed	Outcome
Stage 1 Evidence Report	Quarter 1 2023-24 to Quarter 4 2024-25  May 2023 to March 2025	<b>Inform, Consult and Involve.</b>  Public Engagement on evidence prepared on the basis of topic papers and audited by a reference group. Disputes identified for reference to the Gate Check Examination (see Section 6 Preparing the Evidence Report).  Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping completed.	Partially completed.  <b>This process has been extended due to the time that has had to be devoted to primary data collection of the Open Space Audit and delays to the publication of the Local Housing Strategy.</b>  <b>The timing of the Transport Appraisal and the</b>



		<p>Draft Transport Appraisal Scoping completed.</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment Scoping Complete</p>	<p><b>Health Impact Assessment have been brought forward to allow its findings to be incorporated in the Evidence Report.</b></p>
<p>Stage 2 Gate Check</p>	<p>Starts in Quarter 1 2025-2026</p> <p>(April 2025.)</p> <p>There is no prescribed length of time for the Gate Check examination.</p>	<p><b>Consult.</b></p> <p>The Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will conduct an assessment of disputes relating to the evidence that we have used to inform the topic papers, and will invite parties to engage with them directly.</p> <p><i>This process is not managed by Aberdeenshire Council.</i></p>	<p><b>The Gate Check start date has been extended to accommodate the revised timetable for the Evidence Report.</b></p> <p>The Gate Check in will conclude, and a modified Evidence Report will be used as the foundation of future work.</p> <p><b>This deadline has been extended.</b></p>
<p>Stage 3 Call for Ideas</p>	<p>Quarter 4 2024-25 to Quarter 3 2025-26</p> <p>(January 2025 to September 2025)</p>	<p><b>Inform, Consult, Involve and Collaborate.</b></p> <p>Ideas will be sought from all stakeholders to resolve the issues identified in the Evidence Report. These ideas will be sought before, during, and after, the Gate Check. A target date of 1 October 2025 is set for formal submission of ideas. This will allow the findings of the Gate Check process to be taken in any ideas submitted. Support will be provided to communities and community groups to understand and respond to the issues presented. The development industry will be encouraged to engage with communities on development sites “bids”</p>	<p><b>The Call for Ideas start date has been changed to accommodate the revised timetable for the Evidence Report.</b></p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council will subsequently evaluate and consider, in detail, the ideas presented and use this information as the basis for preparing the Proposed Local Development Plan.</p>



		that they would wish to see allocated in the plan.	
Stage 4 Drafting the Proposed Development Plan and Draft Delivery Programme	Quarter 3 2025-26 to quarter 3 2027-28 (October 2025 to October 2027)	<b>Inform, Consult and Collaborate.</b>  The <b>Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan</b> and <b>Proposed Delivery Programme</b> will be published and subject to public consultation. The Plan will be promoted and responses encouraged.	<b>The start date for Drafting of the Proposed Plan has been changed to accommodate the revised timetable for the Call for Ideas.</b>  A set of formal objections to the Proposed Local Development Plan will be collated. The Delivery Programme will be amended on the basis of comments received.
Stage 5 Modification of the Proposed Development Plan	Quarter 4 2027 to Quarter 4 2028 September 2027 to March 2028	<b>Involve and Collaborate.</b>  Objections to the Proposed Development Plan will be assessed and negotiation will take place with objectors (and other affected parties) to make modifications to the Proposed Local Development Plan	<b>The start date for modifying the Proposed Plan has been changed to accommodate the revised timetable for the Evidence Report</b>  Aberdeenshire Council will be asked to approve a <b>modified Proposed Local Development Plan</b> . All unresolved objections will be collated for submission for public examination.
Stage 6 Examination and Stage 7 Adoption	Quarter 1 2028-29 to Quarter 4 2028-29  (April 2028 to March 2029)	<b>Inform, Involve and Collaborate.</b>  The Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will conduct an examination of	<b>The start date for the examination of the Proposed Plan has been changed to accommodate the revised</b>

		<p>the Modified Proposed Local Development Plan. They may invite parties to engage with them directly.</p> <p><i>This process is not managed by Aberdeenshire Council.</i></p> <p>The Delivery Programme will be published within three months of adoption.</p>	<p><b>timetable for the Evidence Report</b></p> <p>A Report of Examination containing conclusions and recommendations of the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will be considered by Aberdeenshire Council. If these modifications are acceptable this will be followed by adoption of the plan</p> <p>The Delivery Programme will be amended, as appropriate, prior to its final publication following adoption of the Local Development Plan.</p>
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In the short term this timetable provides contingency to complete the Evidence Report before January 2025, while time has been incorporated to permit completion of future stages. We will continue to advise on progress against this timetable, including where we have been able to complete tasks ahead of the deadlines set, in future development plan schemes.

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## 5 Stage 1 Preparing the Evidence Report

Since January 2023 Aberdeenshire Council has been working with partners and stakeholders on preparing the Evidence Report.

The Evidence Report for Aberdeenshire Council will consist of a number of “topic papers” of the relevant and available evidence that we can find on the topics set out in **Table 2**. These topics have been identified from examination of the Scottish Government Development Planning Guidance (2023) and National Planning Framework 4.

We will continue the model for their preparation that has been adopted over the past year (as set out in Development Plan Scheme 2023). We will **Inform, Consult** and **Involve** communities and stakeholders through the development of the topic papers.

Our objective continues to be that all evidence collected is appropriate, relevant, robust, and credible. Collection of new data is being avoided, where possible. This method includes using short life expert “Reference Groups” to assist with the preparation and auditing of each topic paper. Each Reference group will be a small informal group of either experts in the subject matter or with experience in applying existing local development plan policies. Experts will be identified by previous engagement with the Development Plan Team. Experienced members will be identified from previous objectors to the previous proposed Local Development plan. We may also invite Community Council representatives to join topic groups where there is a local interest, asking them to consider the matters at hand without any local bias. Each topic paper will draw conclusions as to what the next Local Development Plan will need to address.

The Key Agencies (various public bodies that collaborate to support culture change in land use planning who are under a duty to cooperate with planning authorities at are involved in all stages of the plan-making process) will be invited to act as members of appropriate reference groups, and invited to participate in the discussions on each topic paper. They are our partners in preparing the development plan and will be key in assisting us on technical topics such as understanding the “Infrastructure First” approach that we will be adopting.

We will continue to invite public comment on the new topic papers through the Engage Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Hub – a ‘one-stop-shop’ for all the written engagement we are undertaking for the next Local Development Plan.

Within this engagement people will have opportunity to identify issues that we should reconsider to us. We will ask the Reference Group to help us either resolve the dispute or, if this is not possible, confirm that it will be passed to the Gate Check for consideration by the Scottish Government Reporter. Time has been included in the programme for the collation and approval by Aberdeenshire Council of the topic papers, and their conclusions, into the Evidence Report. This is likely to occur by the start of the fourth quarter of 2024-25.

However, the following timetable for the production of the topic papers should only be considered to be indicative. Progress is measured against the overall completion of the stage as a whole and we cannot guarantee that engagement will start in the months set out below.

**Table 2** Topic Paper Titles

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<b>Topic Paper Title</b> (Reference number refers to National Planning Policy number)	<b>Anticipated period for public consultation</b>
Plan Outcomes	May-24
Stakeholder Involvement	October-24
Lived in Experience	May-24
01 and 02. Tackling the climate crisis and Climate mitigation and adaptation	Completed
03. Biodiversity and tackling the nature crisis	Completed
04. Natural Places	Completed
05. Soils	Completed
06. Forestry, Woodland and Trees	Completed
07. Historic Assets and Places	Completed
08. Green Belts	June-24
09. Brownfield, Vacant and Derelict Land and Empty Buildings	Completed
10. Coastal Development	June-24
11. Energy	June-24
12. Zero Waste	June-24
13. Sustainable Transport	June-24
14. Design, Quality and Place	May-24
15. Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods	June-24
16. Quality Homes	September-24
17 and 29. Rural Homes and Rural Development	May-24
18. Infrastructure First	September-24
19. Heat and Cooling	Completed
20. Blue and Green Infrastructure	May-24
21. Play, Recreation and Sport	September-24
22. Flood Risk and Water Management	June-24
23. Health and Safety	Completed
24. Digital Infrastructure	Completed
25. Community Wealth Building	June-24
26. Business and Industry	May-24
27. and 28 City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres and Retail	May-24
30. Tourism	Completed
31. Culture and Creativity	May- 24
32. Aquaculture	Not to be considered
33. Minerals	Juneay-24

It is not anticipated that a single “final” Evidence Report will be prepared, instead a summary will be produced, guided by Local development planning guidance, published by the Scottish Government in May 2023.

As noted previously these topic papers will be prepared with a focus on settlements, wards and administrative areas. They will not be site specific.

## 6 Stage 3: The Call for Ideas

During the course of the next year we will commence the Call for Ideas stage of the Plan-making process. The Evidence Report will identify a range of high-level land use planning issues that Aberdeenshire must address in the future plan. The Call for Ideas is the point in the Plan preparation process where we involve you by asking you for your ideas as to what actions we should take to achieve the outcomes identified within the conclusions of the Evidence Report. We will **Inform** you of the objectives agreed through the Evidence Report, and **Consult, Involve** and **Collaborate** with you to help you present your ideas to us.

There are two main parts of the Call for Ideas process that we will conclude this year:

- Collection and evaluation of development proposals from the development industry.
- Collection and evaluation of views expressed by all parties on the actions that should be taken in the Local Development Plan to achieve the looked-for outcomes.

In the last quarter of this year, the Local Development Plan Team will start to enable these discussions, analysing the suggestions made, and making recommendations to Councillors on the alternatives presented.

Evaluation of the Call for Ideas submissions will be undertaken against the conclusions made in the Evidence Report. A goal achievement methodology will be used to evaluate ideas submitted in accordance with the findings of the Gate Check, the principals of good planning practice, deliverability, and the outcomes of other assessments such as the strategic environmental and transport assessments.

Details of our proposals to engage with Stakeholders are set out in Section 8 How you can get involved.

## 7 How You Can Get Involved (the Participation Statement)

It is important that we engage with all those who may have an interest in the Local Development Plan during its preparation. Each Development Plan Scheme must contain a Participation Statement setting out how this will be achieved. In this way we hope to **Inform** and **Involve** you in the way in which we engage with you in the plan-making processes.

We aim to be open and honest in relation to engagement and consultation on the forthcoming Local Development Plan. We will provide you with clear opportunities to be involved and have your voice heard.

This is your Local Development Plan, and we need to know what you want it to deliver.

In all our engagement on the Local Development Plan we will adopt the advice provided in the Scottish Government's "Effective Community Engagement in Local

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Development Planning Guidance”<sup>1</sup> and the National Standards for Community Engagement.

The National Standards for Community Engagement are good-practice principles designed to improve and guide the process of community engagement to build and sustain relationships between public services and community groups – helping them both to understand and act on the needs or issues that communities experience<sup>2</sup>. There are seven national standards, as illustrated in Figure 3. At all times we will make sure that help is provided for those with sight loss or other disabilities are assisted to understand and contribute to any engagement.

As a key stakeholder in the process, we will also ensure that Community Councils are kept informed and involved at all stages of the preparation of the plan.



Figure 3 The National Standards for Community Engagement

### Collecting the right information – the Evidence Report

Sections 7 and 8 provide, in brief, information on the overall consultation process proposed for the Local Development Plan over the next 12 months. In this section greater detail is provided on the processes we propose to finalise for the Evidence Report and support the Call for Ideas. This is the principal way that people can engage with us and make comment at this stage of the plan making process. Further opportunity will be available during the “Call for Ideas” stage and once we publish the proposed Local Development Plan.

Consultation on the topic-based Evidence Report format allows involvement by those people with an interest in a particular subject to contribute to the collection and assessment of information. This approach makes the preparation of the Evidence Report practical and avoids stakeholders being presented with a document so wide in its scope and content that meaningful involvement becomes difficult.

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<sup>1</sup> This is currently at a consultation draft stage of preparation.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.voicescotland.org.uk/national-standards>

We will continue to target engagement with young people, with the implementation of a programme of awareness raising facilitated by School Youth Forums. Members of the Youth Parliament and the Aberdeenshire Youth Forum will also be included in our consultations and where we identify additional opportunities to engage with young people we will do so.

Significant use will continue to be made of the [Engage Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan hub](#)<sup>3</sup> to both share information and seek stakeholders view upon it. This hub is a tool that allows us to manage multiple projects at any one time.

In the surveys that we publish we will specifically ask for information to assist us with both identifying what the issues may be and how we should address them in a future Local Development Plan, remembering that the planning system may only be a small part of any potential solution.

We will continue to invite those with a specific interest and expertise to work with us and sit on the independent review groups.

Working in this way will ensure that anyone can make their views known through the consultation and can be involved with the drawing up of the Evidence Report, but those with a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic are able to independently advise Aberdeenshire Council on the outcomes that we should seek.

“Dispute” is a formal term used in the [Guidance on Local Development Planning](#) where people disagree with the evidence collected or consider that there are alternative sources of information that should be used. Within the surveys we will ask whether people dispute the scopes of the Evidence Report topic papers. Outstanding disputes on the scope of the evidence collected will be considered by the Gate Check process, and the presiding independent Reporter from the Scottish Government Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will make a judgement as to whether the Council has collected sufficient information to inform the production of the Local Development Plan, or whether further information should be sought. We will collaborate with those making disputes to see if they we can find common ground to enable the disputes to be resolved and withdrawn.

As a parallel process we will present the high level implications for the spatial strategy and site selection process that arise from this evidence to Aberdeenshire Council to inform and provide focus for the Call for Ideas Stage of the plan. Outstanding disputes and comments on each of the topic papers will be presented to Councillors to confirm the advice that officers will give to all stakeholders on what the issues are that the ideas require to resolve.

We will involve the Reference Group in these processes to determine if there is something missing from the draft topic paper on the topic, what can be done to resolve it, and whether it changes the specific conclusions that we have collectively made. If it is the consensus of the Reference Group to make a change to the topic paper, then we would be happy to adopt this. However, if the Reference Group does not think that the dispute can be resolved, this would then be noted to the Reporter at the Gate Check ( where it refers to the scope of the data collected) , or to Aberdeenshire Council for debate.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/local-development-plan-2027>

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## Local Place Plans

Local Place Plans, introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, are a way for communities to have how they would like to see their community develop, included in the Local Development Plan.

Local Place Plans are more than just a plan: they can help communities understand what they want their places to be like in the future and help to develop a positive community identity. They can help develop local connections, joint working, and develop community well-being. They can support how the local community wants to deal with the big challenges for a future Scotland, such as responding to the global climate emergency and tackling inequalities. They are an opportunity for real, community-based change to be reflected in the Local Development Plan and through which communities should find it easier to make change happen.

An invitation to local communities to prepare and submit their Local Place Plans has been formally issued. In some areas Local Place Plans will have been registered and will be used as evidence to inform the proposed Local Development Plan.

Not all communities or groups will wish to prepare a Local Place Plan and there is no requirement to do so. There are a number of ways detailed in this document as to how they can make their voice heard and engage with the preparation of the Local Development Plan throughout the preparation period. Officers will be able to offer advice and guidance on how to achieve the most meaningful/appropriate means of engagement and allow communities to best express their ambitions for their area.

There is lots of guidance and tools available to assist communities prepare a Local Place Plan. Community bodies are encouraged to contact us should they be considering preparing a Local Place Plan to seek advice and support should they need it. An enquiry form is also available on the Aberdeenshire Council website.

We have strived to make the Local Place Plans process as simple as possible to allow communities to express what they think is important in their area, what needs to be protected, what needs to be enhanced and, if new development is to be promoted, what scale and where this should be.

For further information on Local Place Plans and to help communities decide whether a Local Place Plan is appropriate for their community please visit the Aberdeenshire Council website. This includes guidance on preparing Local Place Plans alongside contact details for officers & external bodies such as Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) who will be able to assist with any queries or questions communities may have on this process.

**Community Action Plans** are also developed by communities following a community engagement exercise. Community Action Plans detail a particular communities' priorities for the years ahead. Many communities in Aberdeenshire have existing Community Action Plans and these may wish to be used as the basis for a Local Place Plan to avoid unnecessary duplication and effort. Where

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appropriate Community Action Plans will be considered when drafting the Local Development Plan.

### The Call for Ideas

The Call for Ideas stage of plan preparation will be the principal way in which we will collect information from communities and stakeholders on the content of the Local Development Plan. The Call for Ideas is an opportunity for participants to work with us to identify how the issues raised in analysis of the information for the Evidence Report can be addressed. It will involve consultation on how to resolve the issues identified in the Evidence Report.

Significant activity will be undertaken to raise the profile of the Local Development Plan in this context, including dedicated web pages on the Local Development Plan website and a social media campaign through the Councils social media feed, to make sure that there is awareness of this important part of the plan making process. We will try and draw an audience to the work that we are doing by the introduction of simple games into our engagement with people (such as simple strategy games, looking at the future consequences of the decisions we may take today).

We will request meetings with all Community Councils to discuss the content of the Evidence Report and seek their views on how the plan should address issues in their area. Where possible we will meet with other community groups to assist them in putting forward their views. It is intended that the focus for plan making shifts from the wider issues that we must resolve that are set out in National Planning Framework 4 to the local land use planning solutions that are designed to deliver sustainable places, liveable places and productive places. To this end, the Local Development Plan Team will work with stakeholders to understand how each community can develop over the next ten years, and beyond, to achieve development that addresses the issues identified in the Evidence Report. We will focus on the annotation of maps to indicate the assets, needs and opportunities within each town or village.

We will also involve the development industry, asking these businesses to submit proposals for new development land to be included in the plan to meet the need for housing and employment identified in the Evidence Report. Clear guidance will be provided in advance of the Gate Check process to allow prospective developers to attune their proposals to respond to the issues that are identified, with notice that some of these conclusions may change as a result of the Gate Check. We are doing this to give the industry as much time as possible to attune their proposals to what has been identified as being needed and undertake the necessary business testing of their proposals to determine if they are viable. It is clear that there will be big challenges for the industry to address in bringing forward new development sites including the need to take an Infrastructure First approach (considering using existing infrastructure, or providing new infrastructure at the outset of the development) and accommodating "Local Living" in their proposals, as obliged by National Planning Framework 4. The guidance produced on site selection criteria will be tested as part of the Gate Check process and will be the principal way in which individual proposals are evaluated. Demonstration of the deliverability of development proposals,

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including associated infrastructure, will be a fundamental aspect of the selection criteria.

It is anticipated that the Call for Ideas stage will close on **1 October 2025**. Following evaluation, a series of seminars will be held with Aberdeenshire Area Committees in early 2026 to discuss proposals and provide a clear steer for the Local Development Plan Team on what the content of the Local Development Plan should be.

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This Development Plan Scheme sets out a clear and fair assessment of our understanding of the new development plan process that the Scottish Government is requiring us to undertake, based on our assessment of the guidance, our early engagement with key stakeholders, discussions with other Planning Authorities, and our experience in preparing previous Development Plans.

We will conduct a review of this Development Plan Scheme at the end of 2024 to inform the following year's DPS.

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## 8 Contact Us

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Newsletter: [Publications - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

LDP website: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/LDP](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/LDP)

Previous Local Development Plan Schemes: [Process and Timescales - Development Plan Scheme - Aberdeenshire Council : www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/process-and-timescales/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/process-and-timescales/)

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