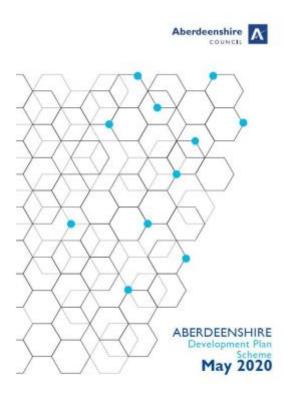
LDP Newsletter

May 2020 Issue 21

Welcome

This newsletter is produced to ensure that our customers can continue to receive an up-to-date picture of progress on the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021. We are delighted to announce that consultation on the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2020 has officially commenced. The consultation period will run from 25 May to 17 July 2020. You can find more details on how to review the Proposed LDP and how to make a representation on it in this newsletter. To allow the consultation to progress we have sought to revise our Participation Statement outlined in a revised Development Plan Scheme 2020. This was approved by Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee on 14 May 2020. As previously advised, we intend to promote a largely electronic consultation. However, should any individual have problems viewing the Proposed LDP or the suite of supporting information available, please do not hesitate to contact the Policy Team.

Revised Development Plan Scheme 2020 Adopted

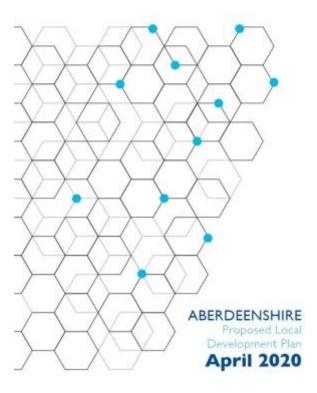


On 14 May 2020, Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) agreed a revised Development Plan Scheme (DPS) for 2020. This includes agreement of a new Participation Statement which outlines the specific ways in which we will engage on the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP). The Committee also agreed that the public consultation period should commence on 25 May 2020 for a period of 8 weeks, ending on 17 July 2020. A DPS is prepared to inform stakeholders of the stage that the LDP is currently at, and to identify the nature of the consultation being undertaken to inform the content of the LDP. The revised DPS has been prepared to reflect the impact that social distancing measures associated with the Covid-19 outbreak and changes introduced though emergency legislation has had on our proposed engagement during the Proposed LDP consultation. The revised DPS replaces the DPS previously agreed by ISC on 12 March 2020.

Consultation on the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020

Aberdeenshire Council on 5 March 2020, an 8-week consultation period on the Proposed LDP commenced on 25 May 2020 and will end on 17 July 2020. We will be pursuing a consultation that is largely focussed on an online means of engagement. In place of face to face drop-in events that were previously planned across Aberdeenshire, we will be engaging with members of the public and stakeholders, including Community Councils, using electronic means. This will include an interactive virtual drop-in 'room', and there will also be opportunities for question and answer sessions to be held between planning officers and the public. We will however also be available to communicate with stakeholders and members of the public through non-digital communication e.g. telephone calls/letters. Anyone can comment on the content of the Proposed LDP during the consultation period. Any comment made outside the consultation period will not be considered. All those who made comments on the Main Issues Report will be contacted and expressly invited to examine the outcomes of the Council's deliberations on the issues identified. Likewise, all Community Councils, Key Agencies and neighbouring Planning Authorities will be notified. All properties that are adjacent to a site proposed for development will be notified in writing and views sought on the proposals.





How to make comment on the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020





All representations on the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2020 must be made in writing by 17 July 2020. A pro-forma <u>response form</u> is available which we would encourage the use of in preparing any representation(s) on the Proposed LDP. Hard copies of the response form can also be distributed upon request. Representations should be clear and concise (Ministers expect representations to be no more than 2,000 words plus any limited supported productions), but should fully explain the issues wished to be considered at the Examination. Any unresolved matters arising from the consultation will be considered at Examination by an independent Reporter appointed by Scottish Ministers. Planning Officers are available to answer any questions in relation to the Proposed LDP 2020 and any of the supporting documents. Please contact us on <u>01467</u> 536230 or email ldp@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Virtual Drop-In

We are offering all members of the public the opportunity to continue to engage with us by 'Virtual Drop-In'. This is a virtual 'room' providing a 360° virtual tour of all the information that would usually be available at an event held in a village hall. The information includes the Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP), three short films and an array of posters that broadly summarise the vision and policies, explain the LDP process, outline the proposed allocations for each individual settlement, and how to comment on the Proposed LDP. The Virtual Drop-In is an open session that anyone can join or leave at any time. There will be a 'live chat' facility within the drop-in platform to allow opportunities to discuss the content of the Proposed LDP with Planning Officers during the

consultation period. A live webinar may also be considered. We will announce these on our website, and our <u>Twitter(@ShireLDP)</u> and <u>Facebook (Aberdeenshire Council)</u> accounts. Planning officers are also contactable via telephone and e-mail <u>Idp@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</u>.



Short films

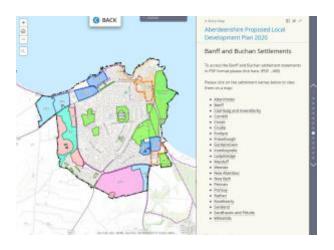
As part of the consultation process for the Proposed Local Development Plan, we have produced three short films on the following topics:

- The Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020
- The Local Development Plan-Making Process
- The Proposed LDP Consultation Process, including Neighbour Notification



Interactive Online Proposed Local Development Plan

To assist members of the public and stakeholders to view and understand the Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP), we have produced an Interactive Online Proposed Local Development Plan. The interactive Proposed LDP allows users to see how specific policies and land designations relate to the area that they live in or are interested to develop. Within the Policy sections, users can search an address to see if it falls within/near areas of designation or protection such as green belt, coastal zone, Special Landscape Areas, Local Nature Conservation Sites, Battlefields or Prime Agricultural Land. Similarly, settlements that have a Settlement Statement in the Proposed LDP can be explored to learn about proposed areas for development, safeguarded areas for business use, protected land, reserved sites and boundaries to retail centres or the built up area.



Engagement with students at Scotland's Rural College



To assist a group of first year students in Countryside Management at SRUC with their study unit "Understanding the Landscape", Policy Officer, Katherine Southwell recently gave a talk on the local landscape designation called "Special Landscape Areas" (SLA). The aim was to help students understand more about the policy/legislative aspects of the landscape, and how policy applies in practice. Using on-line technology to deliver the talk in a virtual classroom, the students were given some historical background to the SLA designation including how it replaced a former landscape protection known as 'Valued Views', and prior to that 'Areas of Landscape Significance'. It was explained that the ten areas of special landscape value identified for inclusion in the LDP 2017 as Special Landscape Areas had followed a thorough review process conducted by Land Use Consultants, which included extensive community/public involvement. Some practical examples were provided to help students understand the role of the SLA designation as a planning tool. In reality, local planning proposals ranging from a large scale windfarm project to small scale tourism developments were used to illustrate how the SLA designation and associated "Statements of Importance" help safeguard important landscapes with limited capacity for change, but also help guide and manage positive land use change. The challenge of dealing with development pressure was highlighted and in particular how the competing interests of environment, economic and social demands on our landscapes have to be weighed up when assessing planning applications. "Special Landscape Areas" is currently a piece of Supplementary Guidance within the Local Development Plan (LDP) 2017. This is proposed to be carried forward into the forthcoming LDP as an Appendix. For more detail see Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). Short films can also be viewed on YouTube.

Subscriptions

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Contact information

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Phone: 01467 536230

YouTube: Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire LDP Playlist

If you wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list for this newsletter please contact the LDP Team at LDP@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.