



aberdeen local development plan

## Newsletter – August 2013

### Contents

- Review of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan / Pre Main Issues Report Consultation
- Strategic Development Plan Update
- Planning Scotland's Seas
- Major Transport Projects – Key Milestones
- Electric Vehicle Charging

### Review of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan / Pre Main Issues Report Update

The review of the Plan started with a non-statutory Pre-Main Issues Report consultation period that ran from **15 April – 14 June 2013**. Officers are now using the comments we received to help prepare the Main Issues Report and associated supporting documents such as the Strategic Environmental Assessment. These will be presented to the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee in November 2013.

All comments and development bids we received throughout the consultation period can now be found on the web

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/planning/local\\_development\\_plan/pla\\_2016\\_pre\\_mir\\_engagement.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/planning/local_development_plan/pla_2016_pre_mir_engagement.asp)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who submitted representations during the consultation period. All representations received during the consultation period will also be presented to Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee in November 2013.

A further update on the Main Issues Report will be released in the next newsletter in October / November.

## Strategic Development Plan Update

The Aberdeen City and Shire SDPA submitted the Proposed Strategic Development Plan (without modifications) to Scottish Ministers for approval last month, following the period for representations earlier this year. The Ministers have now appointed two reporters to carry out the examination of the plan - Mr Scott Ferrie and Mr Stephen Hall. The reporters have now concluded their examination of conformity with the SDPA's participation statement and the examination of the plan itself started on Tuesday 6 August 2013.

Documents relating to the examination will be available from the Scottish Government's Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) website over the next few weeks: <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?id=qA361389>

Further guidance on the examination process is also available from the DPEA website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/Appeals/whatwedo/devplanexaminations>

The current development plan scheme (2013/14) indicates that the plan is likely to be approved by Scottish Ministers (with or without modifications) in the first few months of 2014. At that point it will replace the current Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (2009).

## Planning Scotland's Seas

The Scottish Government published a range of consultations at the end of July relating to marine planning and the relationship with terrestrial (onshore) planning, including a Scotland's Draft National Marine Plan.

These are all available from the Scottish Government website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-consultation>) with a closing date of 13 November 2013 for responses. A number of consultation events are due to take place at the end of August in Aberdeen, Peterhead and Fraserburgh, with more details at the website above.

## Major Transport Projects – Key Milestones

The following are the indicative key milestones for a number of projects funded by the Council's Non Housing Capital programme:

- **Third Don Crossing** – design and contract documentation currently underway; start construction late 2013 with main contract underway early 2014; opening autumn 2015;
- **A96 Park and Choose** – design and contract documentation currently underway; start construction early 2014; opening autumn 2015;
- **Dyce Drive Link Road** - design and contract documentation currently underway; start construction early 2014; opening early 2015 (connection to A96 subject to AWPR contract programme)
- **South College Street Corridor Improvements**; start construction early 2015; opening early 2016
- **Berryden Corridor Phase 1**: design underway; start construction autumn 2015; opening autumn 2016
- **Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie - Tipperty**: procurement underway; contract award autumn 2014; opening spring 2018
- **Broad Street – Civic Square Option Appraisal**: City Centre Traffic Model completion end August 2013; option appraisal completion end January 2014
- **Union Street Pedestrianisation**: key milestones to be revisited following Broad Street option appraisal.

These will be reported to Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 29 August.

## Electric Vehicle Charging

Progress is continuing on the installation of a network of publically available electric vehicle (EV) charging points in Aberdeen City as part of the Plugged in Places project funded by Transport Scotland and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). All nine sites, equating to twenty charging points, now have power supplies and are awaiting final connections being made by a specialist electrician before 'going live'. It is expected that the points will be operational by the end of August 2013 with an official launch planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> September. This will be accompanied by supporting information advising users how to safely connect to and operate the units. Information on EV charging in Aberdeen is now available on the Council website:

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning\\_environment/planning/transp\\_ort/pla\\_electric\\_vehicle\\_charging.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/planning/transp_ort/pla_electric_vehicle_charging.asp).

This page also includes a link to a site mapping all the electric charging points available to the public in the UK: <http://openchargemap.org/site/>.

Traffic Regulation Orders to safeguard parking spaces in front of the units for EVs only are being progressed. Following approval from this Committee in May 2013, the charging service will be offered to the public for free until the end of April 2014 when the situation will be reviewed. However, EV users will still be expected to pay the cost of parking where applicable. Dundee, Edinburgh and Aberdeenshire Councils are following the same arrangement while the Union Square shopping centre in Aberdeen already operates its own charging points on these terms.

Aberdeen City Council has applied to OLEV for funding to install EV charge points at a further two sites and is currently awaiting the outcome of this application.

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