



**aberdeen** local development plan

## **Newsletter – January 2013**

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### **Development Plan Scheme**

The Development Plan Scheme was approved at Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 22 January 2013. The Development Plan Scheme sets out Aberdeen City Council's programme for preparing and reviewing the new Aberdeen Local Development Plan. You can see a copy of the Development Plan Scheme online at

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan)

### **Upcoming Aberdeen Local Development Plan Consultation and Engagement**

A report will be submitted to Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 19 March 2013 to ask the Committee to ratify the steps in delivering the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan, including the consultation and engagement strategy.

We are required to consult with and have regard to any views expressed by: the key agencies, Scottish Ministers and other planning authorities within the SDPA area.

In addition to our statutory obligations we will also carry out a range of innovative engagement and consultation techniques with a wide spectrum of people across the City. We will have further details of this in our next issue of the ALDP Newsletter in March.

## **Follow up from the Consultation and Engagement Questionnaire**

The responses we received from the Consultation and Engagement Questionnaire issued at the end of 2012 have helped to inform the Development Plan Scheme. Generally the feedback was positive on previous engagement and consultation, but some suggestions were made for improvement. Some of these were:

- **Email updates** – we will continue to email those signed up to our distribution list to make them aware of our consultation events. Please feel free to forward this email to others who may also be interested to attend.
- **Press releases** – we will continue to liaise with the local press and release articles advertising consultation events.
- **Local radio coverage** – we have tried local radio to advertise before but found this to be quite expensive and not completely effective. We will target our press releases to local radio in hope they pick them up as local news.
- **Posters in local notice boards / community halls and centres / local shops / circulate posters to Community Councils to distribute** – we will continue to distribute posters in all of these locations and ask Community Councils to distribute around their community.
- **Letters to homes** – the ALDP potentially affects everyone in Aberdeen City Council therefore it would be very costly to distribute letters to every home or business.
- **Network from each event** – we will continue to make people aware of the distribution list at consultation events and we always encourage people to pass on the newsletter to interested parties.
- **More events** – we are scheduling more events across the City and will provide details of these in our next Newsletter.

We hope these measures can help improve the ALDP consultation and engagement process.

## **Strategic Development Plan Update**

The Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (2009) currently sets the strategic direction for the development of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire over the period to 2030 and sets the context for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan. The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) has been working to replace this with a Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

The Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan was agreed by the SDPA on 9 November 2012 and ratified by both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire councils. The plan is currently with the printers and will be published in the next week or two and be open for representations for a 7-week

period. More information will be available shortly on the SDPA website:  
[www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk)

### **Upcoming Delivery Workshop**

The next Delivery Workshop is scheduled for Friday 22 March 2013. Further details on how you can apply to attend are available at  
[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan)

### **New Report Highlights Recommendations for the Urban Edge**

An Aberdeen City Council led European project has published the findings of a 3 year research programme that reveal the social, environmental and economic benefits of the urban fringe and how this can contribute to sustainable development in EU city regions.

New recreational routes, improved green spaces, increased urban and rural connectivity and areas for economic growth are some of the opportunities for these areas highlighted in the recently produced final report of the Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) project.

The "Connecting Urban and Rural" report includes a series of local, regional and European policy recommendations and information on approaches to governance of these complex and challenging areas.

Complimenting the report, the SURF project has produced a

Toolkit for Urban Fringe Management. This document brings together effective tools used by the SURF project partners and aims to inspire others to develop dynamic and sustainable projects at the urban edge.

In Aberdeen, a SURF project along the River Don Corridor has led to the production of the River Don Corridor Framework, approved as Supplementary Guidance to the Aberdeen Local Development Plan.

The Framework was developed with direct input from local people and organisations, to allow a more collective approach to the planning and management of open spaces along the River Don Corridor. It sets out the vision, aims, objectives and spatial plan; covering access, recreational, landscape, cultural and historical, environmental, wildlife and community engagement of the River Don Corridor.

The "Connecting Urban and Rural" report and SURF Toolkit are available from the SURF website [www.sustainablefringes.eu](http://www.sustainablefringes.eu)

## Conservation Area Consultation

There are currently eleven Conservation Areas in Aberdeen ranging from the Georgian engineered city centre to Victorian residential suburbs; coastal villages and a medieval educational hub. Between them they cover 656 hectares. Each Conservation Area is unique with its own distinctive character and pattern of development. Together their differences all contribute to creating the identity of modern Aberdeen.

The historic environment helps to create the City's sense of place and provides a context for everyday life. It is dynamic and able to adapt and respond to changing needs. Conservation Areas however need to be actively managed in order to keep their flexibility, without losing their special qualities. We have produced draft guidance on how we propose to manage all eleven of them and undertaken character appraisals of six of our Conservation Areas to understand what makes them special – Albyn Place/Rubislaw; Crown St/Bon Accord; Cove bay; Ferryhill; Great Western Road and Marine Terrace with the remaining five still to be assessed. We will be consulting the public in late February/March on the draft Conservation Areas Interim Planning Advice document. For further information please contact Bridget Turnbull on [bturnbull@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:bturnbull@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or 01224 523953.

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