

aberdeen local development plan

Newsletter – March 2013

Contents

- **Review of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan / Pre Main Issues Report Consultation**
- **Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan**
- **Public Consultation on Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plan**
- **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan**
- **Infrastructure Investment**
- **Customer Service Excellence**

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

The Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee agreed on 19 March that the Local Development Plan Team can start the review of the ALDP. The review of the Plan will start with a non-statutory consultation period running from **15 April – 17 June 2013**. This consultation exercise will help us prepare our Main Issues Report. During the consultation period we will hold a number of workshops to give members of the public an opportunity to speak to the Team about the main planning issues they think should be addressed in the next Local Development Plan. The following dates have been organised:

- **Kingswells Community Centre** - Monday 15 April, 7-9 pm
- **Bucksburn Academy** - Wednesday 17 April, 7-9 pm
- **Marischal College** - Thursday 18 April, 7-9 pm
- **Cults Academy** - Monday 22 April, 7-9 pm
- **Northfield Academy** - Tuesday 23 April, 7-9 pm
- **Hazlehead Academy** - Wednesday 24 April, 7-9 pm
- **Altens Community Centre** - Thursday 25 April, 7-9 pm
- **Bridge of Don Academy** - Monday 29 April, 7-9 pm

We will also be hosting a drop-in session in **Marischal College** on Thursday 18 April between 12-5.30 pm for anyone who cannot make an evening event.

As well as organising workshops we have also invited Community Councils to take part in Planning Engagement Toolkits. This is a relatively new approach to

engagement with local communities which has been successfully trialled by other Local Planning Authorities in Scotland.

We have also invited all secondary schools across the City to take part in workshops designed for school pupils. The workshops will give pupils an introduction into town planning and will give them the opportunity to take part in active engagement by using role play, discussion and debate. A number of schools have signed up to these workshops which will take place in late April / early May.

We also intend to release a questionnaire online and through other means to seek views on main issues. We anticipate rolling forward the allocations from the current ALDP as the Proposed Strategic Development Plan does not require us to allocate extra housing or employment land in the next Local Development Plan. Therefore, we are not looking to allocate any more greenfield housing or employment land in this plan. It is for this reason that we are not asking for greenfield development options this time around. However, we are always keen to identify new brownfield sites for housing or for other uses.

Once the Pre-Main Issues Report consultation is complete, we intend to place all comments onto the website. We will then prepare a 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 this year.

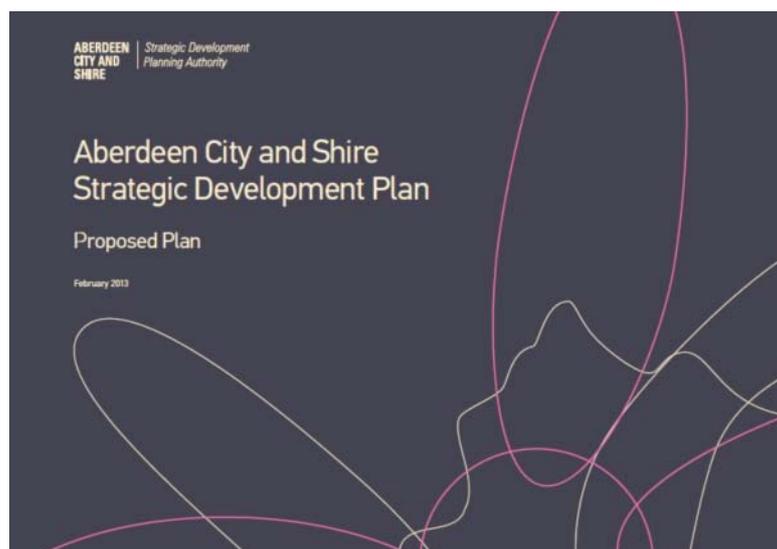
Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan

The Proposed Strategic Development Plan (SDP) was published in February and has a closing date for representations of 12 April 2013.

The Proposed Plan draws heavily on the current Structure Plan and retains that Plan's vision, spatial strategy and objectives. The SDP is ambitious for the future of the area and sets out how we can realise that potential, including the need for a renewed focus on improving the city centre. Development and growth are happening in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire like nowhere else in the UK at the moment and the new plan seeks to facilitate that growth, ensuring it meets current and future needs in the most sustainable locations.

The Strategic Development Plan, once approved by Scottish Ministers, will set the context for the next Local Development Plans in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

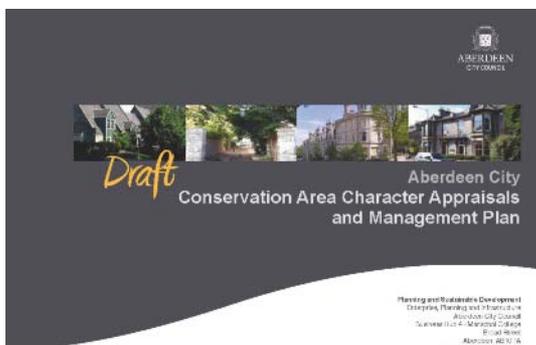
Further information is available from the SDPA website - (www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk)



Conservation Area Appraisals Consultation

Aberdeen has a fantastic legacy of historic buildings within its conservation areas ranging from the Georgian engineered city centre to Victorian residential suburbs; coastal villages and a medieval educational hub. Each one is unique with its own distinctive character and pattern of development. It is not only buildings that are of architectural or historic interest in a conservation area, but also the spaces between them such as the streets, open spaces and the public realm. All of these elements combine to create an area's special character.

The City Council is reviewing its conservation areas and looking at how best to manage them. It has produced a **Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plan**, which will provide guidance for the public and help developers to identify and formulate proposals in conservation areas.



The Draft document includes **character appraisals** for six conservation areas, which identifies what makes each area special and reviews their boundaries. The other five conservation areas in Aberdeen will be assessed in the near future.

The six conservation areas appraised so far have some specific proposed amendments, including – some proposed boundary alterations for the Ferryhill conservation area; suggestion that the terraced properties in the West End Office Area of the Albyn/Rubislaw conservation area are covered by guidance in the Management Plan on pg. 22 Q: *Rear extensions to terraces in the West End Office Area*; and it is proposed that the Cove Bay conservation area is de-designated. Bon Accord/Crown Street; Marine Terrace and Great Western Road conservation areas have no specific proposals or boundary amendments.

In addition to the character appraisals, a **management plan** has been developed that covers all of the conservation areas in the city and provides generic guidance to help secure their long-term viability.

We are inviting comments on the draft documents as part of a city-wide public consultation exercise.

We would like to know if you agree with the analysis, think there are issues that we have missed, or have any other comments to make on the proposals. The six week consultation period will run from **Monday 11 March to noon on Monday 22 April.**

For further information and details on how to get involved in the consultation process please visit online at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/masterplanning

Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

Aberdeen City Council has won the first ever European Commission Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan Award for its work on a transport masterplan for the city centre.

The award brings with it a €10,000 prize to support local awareness-raising activities on sustainable urban mobility.

Aberdeen's SUMP, which is in the preparation stages, is designed to enhance and further develop the transport themes in the City Centre Development Framework; provide a guide to how transport connections will develop over the next 25 years; and achieve regeneration of the city centre. It contributes to delivery of the Smarter Mobility aims of the Aberdeen – The Smarter City.

Council officers have been working alongside Nestrans and Robert Gordon University to draw up the SUMP, which focuses on the six main routes into the city, as well as the city centre.

One of the key aspects in drawing up the SUMP has been to gather public opinion on what works well, what does not work well, and possible solutions to improve the city centre, focussing on the various transport options and general environment.

The aims of Aberdeen's SUMP, which will be produced in the autumn, include:

- Creating a city centre which is easy to move around, with improved connections across the area;
- Ensuring the transport system is accessible to all;
- Improving safety and security of travellers;
- Reducing air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption;
- Increasing walking and cycling opportunities in the city centre;
- Improving public transport and provide tourism pick up and drop off points at appropriate locations
- Improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the transportation of people and goods;
- Enhancing the attractiveness and quality of the urban environment.

The SUMP team will be involved with all of the LDP Pre-Main Issues Report consultation events detailed above.

Infrastructure Investment

Aberdeen City Council has approved its revenue budget for 2013/14 – and a £300million five-year capital investment programme to make Aberdeen a "Smarter City". The Budget gives major infrastructure investment priority in the city. Some key projects aligned to the council's Smarter City priorities are:

- £32million for Art Gallery refurbishment extension and a new museums collection centre;
- £32million for a new academy for the south of the city;
- £11.75million for a new Milltimber primary school;
- £11.5million for a new Bucksburn/Newhills Primary;
- £5million for an energy from waste plant;
- £3.5million for composting plant for food waste and a further £3.5million for waste strategy improvements;
- £20million on central Aberdeen infrastructure, including the long-awaited Berryden Corridor improvements and Union Street pedestrianisation;
- £10.1million for an A96 park-and-choose facility to boost public transport;
- £5.2million for a Dyce Drive/International Airport link road to further open the city for business and help people travelling by air to and from Aberdeen;
- £20million to improve our roads;
- £6million for Nestrans for strategic transport schemes;
- £1million for hydrogen buses to put Aberdeen at the forefront of world developments;
- £1million for broadband infrastructure; and
- £570,000 for cycling, walking and safer streets across the city.

Councillor Crockett said: "This is a significant and inspiring investment programme which will transform our great city over the next five years.

Customer Service Excellence

Our teams that deal with planning applications, masterplanning, conservation and enforcement (collectively known as the 'Development Management Team') are working towards achieving the Customer Service Excellence award. This involves us looking closely at what our customers need and tailoring our service accordingly as much as we can.

We are committed to improving the quality of the service we provide and would like to know your views on the service you have received.

By clicking on <http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/customerfeedback> selecting Development Management (Planning Applications Team) and filling out the online feedback form, you will be helping us learn what we need to do better

Contact us on

Email ldp@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Facebook



'Like' Aberdeen Local Development Plan

Twitter



'Follow us' @AberdeenLDP

Telephone 01224 523326

Mail

Local Development Plan Team, Planning and Sustainable Development, Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure, Business Hub 4, Ground Floor North, Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AB