



Newsletter – November 2012

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Recognition at the Quality iTTn Planning Awards

Aberdeen City Council won the Quality of Service Award for its involvement in the Trinity Group, a high-level partnership panel launched in the city to provide a forum for public and private sector leaders to help promote the delivery of development in and around the city in a changing financial climate. It was the only initiative with private sector involvement nominated to receive an award.

The council also received a commendation for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan, the first in Scotland to be adopted under new planning legislation, in the Development Planning category.

The Trinity Group was established jointly between the private sector and Aberdeen City Council in an endeavour to demonstrate in practice “a passion and commitment to do the best for our city”.

The Quality of Service award recognises innovative approaches developed and applied across Scotland to improve the customer's experience of the planning service. It was given for the Trinity Group initiative in recognition of the unique and proactive partnership approach taken to address challenges being faced by the development sector in the North-east. The judges highlighted the solutions-focused approach taken by the group to aid development as a key principle of planning modernisation.

The Development Planning category covers statutory development planning, as well as other plans, policy and supplementary guidance. The commendation was given for the council's work on the Aberdeen Local Development Plan because of the open and inclusive nature of the consultation process, resulting in a quick turnaround time for the development and adoption of the Plan.

Consultation and Engagement Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit their views for the Consultation and Engagement questionnaire. However, if you did not and wish to express your views please contact the LDP team on the details below. The report can be found at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan

Strategic Development Plan Progress

The Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (2009) 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 on a replacement plan over the last two years and this work is now at an important stage.

The Proposed Strategic Development Plan (SDP) was agreed by the SDPA on 9 November 2012 and was ratified by Aberdeenshire Council on 22 November. Aberdeen City Council will consider ratification at its meeting of 19 December.

It is anticipated that 11 January 2013 will see the publication of the Proposed SDP for representations

over a 7-week period. This will be followed by submission next summer for examination, with approval by Scottish Ministers in either late 2013 or early 2014 - at which point it will replace the current structure plan.

The Proposed SDP rolls forward the current structure plan with a very high degree of continuity between them. This has been done in recognition of the relatively robust state of the economy in this part of Scotland and the welcome the current plan received from across the spectrum of stakeholders.

More information will be available in early January, with the SDPA website being the key source of information at www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk

Development Plan Scheme

The Development Plan Scheme will be submitted to Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 22 January 2013. The Development Plan Scheme will set out Aberdeen City Council's programme for preparing and reviewing the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2. We will have more information about this in our next Newsletter early next year.

National Planning Framework 3

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets the context for development planning in Scotland and provides a framework for the spatial development of Scotland as a whole.

Work has started on the third NPF (NPF3) which will set out the Government's development priorities over the next 20-30 years.

Keep up-to-date with information on the Scottish Governments NPF webpage <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/npf/NPF3>

Festive Traffic

Partnership working between Aberdeen City Council, Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen Inspired, First Bus, Stagecoach and Grampian Police, has been in progress to ensure that traffic to, from and in the City Centre over the Festive period runs as smoothly as possible.

Alternatives to the car are being promoted via an Interactive Festive Transport Guide, which can be found on the Get About website:

<http://www.get-about.com/pdfs/park-ride-leaflet.pdf>. This guide provides information on public transport, cycling, and walking along with the safest ways to get home after a night out. You can also pick up a copy at Marischal College, Aberdeen Bus Station or the First travel shop on Union Street.

Park and Ride services are very important in helping to reduce congestion in the City Centre over this busy period and, in addition to the usual bus park and ride services from Ellon, Bridge of Don and Kingswells, a temporary facility is

being provided from Woodhill House for the 4 weekends prior to Christmas.

First Bus is also operating a Sunday service for the 4 Sundays before Christmas for the Bridge of Don and Kingswells Park and Rides. This service runs every 20 mins between 9am and 6pm and is in addition to park and ride services which will continue to operate Monday – Saturday.

Park and Ride is also available at each of the rail stations across the north east and there are soon to be improvements to local rail services, with the stopping frequency at Portlethen Station increased by 3 trains per day in each direction from 9 December 2012.

Aberdeen Inspired is providing a hopper bus from the west end to the City Centre to help shoppers get around the City on the four weekends prior to Christmas. Details of this can be found at <http://www.aberdeenbid.org/>

Variable Message Signs will keep travellers up to date with car park information and any traffic issues in the City Centre and it is hoped shoppers and visitors will use this information to inform their travel choices.

A festive flyer has been developed to try and appeal to people's good will and encourage people to park responsibly and comply with yellow box junctions, ensuring the City Centre traffic keeps moving over Christmas.

Contact us on

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