

1.1 Please let us know the capacity in which you are completing this questionnaire. Are you...	
a) A member of the public	✓
b) A community representative e.g Community Council	
c) A developer/their agent	
d) A landowner/ their agent	
e) From a Key Agency	
f) Other – please specify	
Name	Stephen Stuart
Organisation	STSO (Suitable Travellers Sites Only)
Organisation/group/landowner:	
2.1 What do you think are the most important things that make Aberdeen a good place to live, visit and/or work?	Large centre of population. Presence of two Universities and a large College. Good shops and places to visit, including well kept parks.
2.2 What do you think should be the Council's top priorities for the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan?	Stop further development of new shopping centres. Create environment for the re-invigouration of older shopping areas such as Union Street. In view of the constantly reducing need for shopping outlets due to modern alternatives, some older retail outlets in certain defined areas should be given new uses, such as office premises and residential flats. Making sure that the current road system links effectively with planned road developments. Cleaning up parks and listed buildings and forcing landlords to remove vegetation from gutters, rooftops and masonry.

<p>2.3 Do you have any particular aspirations for your community or Aberdeen as a whole that you think should be taken forward through the ALDP? For example, what are your views on recycling of waste, affordable housing, access to green space or ways to reduce CO2 emissions?</p>	<p>There should be much more competition for First Bus in order to bring down fares. Private motorists should be better catered for, particularly in the evenings, when they might wish to go to cinema, theatre, meetings, etc., There should be no parking charges after 6.30pm. This would help bring life back to the centre. Park & Ride facilities should be aimed better at the needs of motorists who wish to avoid the City Centre. Affordable housing should be created in the form of blocks of flats such as you find all over the rest of the world. These flats should be built in brown field areas wherever possible but also on the edges of housing areas which were initially build by the Council.</p>
<p>2.4 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for the City Centre? (For example, what should the role of Union Street be? Does the City Centre have all the uses we want, or should there be more uses there- and if so where could they go?)</p>	<p>As stated Union Street should retain a vibrant retail element but no necessarily along its entire length. Further to the west there should be extensive replacement of retail outlets by offices. Rates for Retail outlets should be kept low, to attract new proprietors and keep existing ones. Better levels of occupation of Retail Outlets would bring in more revenue eventually. Union Street should be an environment where people would wish to stroll in the evening without fear from unruly elements. This should be kept within reason however, because the amount of time people can do this is extremely restricted by the typical weather.</p>
<p>2.5 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for providing infrastructure? (For example, how should new infrastructure be provided and how might it be paid for?)</p>	<p>The current infrastructure should be subject to better maintenance. Citizens should be confident that the Council employs someone whose remit is to check the condition of infrastructure of all varieties and who has the ability to get fast action taken to rectify what is not in good order.</p>

<p>2.6 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for transport and accessibility? (For example, how can we make it easier to travel in and around Aberdeen? Should we look at pedestrianisation in the City Centre?)</p>	
<p>2.7 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for ensuring we have high quality buildings and places? (For example, how can we better protect our built heritage and ensure high quality and sympathetic architecture and landscape design?)</p>	<p>Just fund it and do it. It's a minimum expectation of a Council. Don't just go for 'glass blocks' but create beauty. Glass blocks may cost less but they will never raise any aesthetic interest and ultimately become depressing. I was shocked at the drawings of the buildings which are proposed for in front of Marischal College. Architects should look at what people find attractive in older buildings and re-create it with modern overtones.</p>
<p>2.8 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for meeting the needs of business and industry? (For example, what can be done to retain existing businesses and attract new employment opportunities to Aberdeen?)</p>	<p>Keep business rates highly competitive. Study what Dundee is doing.</p>
<p>2.9 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for meeting Aberdeen's housing and community needs? (For example, how can we meet the needs of people who cannot afford mainstream housing?)</p>	<p>Blocks of flats, well-positioned and kept well maintained. This is how Europeans live. Social intervention is required to show tenants how to take responsibility for the appearance of their locality. Local Aberdonians have a blinkered culture and generally don't care about appearances. They have a limited sense of pride in their environment. Perhaps we should try again to get an element of education for our children in this area - remember 'Police Box'. We should have the courage of our convictions and the strength of character to persuade people that there is something to be gained by cleanliness and respect for property. We have virtually removed negative sanctions when low standards are practiced and it's time we brought</p>

	<p>them back. The press can be instrumental in this. It may take a little naming and shaming before it will start to be instinctive.</p>
<p>2.10 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for supporting retail centres across Aberdeen? (For example, should we be safeguarding existing centres, and what are your thoughts on new out-of-town retail parks?)</p>	<p>Support existing centres. Keep business rates low or at least very competitive. Where outlets cannot be filled create office space, flats or demolish and create attractive open areas. No more out-of-town retail parks. They are a slow-burning disaster for existing retail areas.</p>
<p>2.11 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and preventing flooding? (For example, what areas or features should we be safeguarding?)</p>	<p>Make big enough sewers or avoid developing where sewers are inadequate. We should be keeping all open public areas safe and clean. I see rubbish everywhere. It breaks my heart to see the way people (particularly teenagers) discard rubbish without a thought. There are sanctions which can be applied but the Council does not have the will, the Police think it's beneath them and our prosecutors and courts are not interested on the rare occasions when it comes to their attention. Police are being replaced by low-cost alternative uniform carriers with inadequate or no powers. Zero tolerance is the only answer but it will never be applied unless so-called 'fussy' people begin to be respected again and shown some meaningful support.</p>
<p>2.12 What do you think should be our main planning priorities for ensuring that resources and waste are managed sustainably? (For example, can we make more innovative use of waste as a resource? Should we encourage renewable energy use? How could we do these things?)</p>	<p>Am I getting deja vu here? Waste is waste. Anything which can be used effectively is not waste. Performance of bigger cities should be examined all the time by relevant council officials and they should be heavily criticised or sacked if they don't identify good practice elsewhere and apply up-to-date processes which others already apply. There is no reason to believe that Aberdeen City cannot employ officials who realise that their performance in this field is</p>

	critical on a public and personal level.
2.13 If you have any views on topics not covered above, please write them below.	<p>Swansea City has led the way in identifying suitable sites for Gypsy/Travellers. Aberdeen City has shown it lack any flair in applying fair and transparent processes for identifying suitable sites. Council Officers should be of a calibre where they are able to create an effective and respected framework for dealing with this issue and devote more time to creating solutions which do not involve using unsuitable sites or sites which are too close to the settled community. Officials experienced in simple housing matters are worse than useless in this area of expertise. Residents are right to object to having official sites forced upon them to the detriment of their quality of life or even their preceived quality of life. Suitable sites will never be areas on the doorsteps of the settled communities - unsuitable to residents and travellers. The Recycling Centre in Bridge of Don is a totally unsuitable site. Just for starters it fails on the basic requirement of size and yet it remains listed for assessment when others, more suitable, are removed from the list. This is tantamount to abuse of power. This site would NEVER achieve Planning permission. This should be officially acknowledged forthwith and it should be returned to nature (which surrounds it on all sides), at the earliest possible opportunity.</p>