



Aberdeen Local Development Plan Review

Pre- Main Issues Report Questionnaire 2018

Aberdeen City Council is currently in the early stages of reviewing the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2017(ALDP). The 2018 Development Plan Scheme provides a timetable for the review of the ALDP and the opportunities to participate throughout the process.

It is available to view online at: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan

This questionnaire forms part of the pre-Main Issues Report consultation activities we are undertaking. It is designed to gather views on the main planning issues in Aberdeen to be considered by the next ALDP.

Using your Personal Information

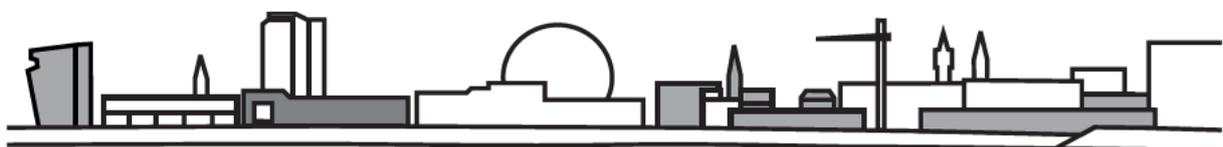
Information you supply to Aberdeen City Council (ACC) in this questionnaire will be used to prepare the Local Development Plan. ACC will not share the personal information provided in this questionnaire with other parties or organisations. ACC will not disclose any contact information about you to any organisation or person unless it is authorised or required to do so by law.

The Local Development Plan team may use your contact details to contact you about the comments you have made. Your name and organisation may be published alongside your comments but contact details will not be made public. If you chose not to provide a name or contact details, your comments will still be valid but we will not be able to contact you in the future.

For further information on how your information is used, how ACC maintain the security of your information, and your rights to access information ACC holds about you, please contact Andrew Brownrigg, Team Leader, Local Development Plan Team, Strategic Place Planning, Aberdeen City Council, Business Hub 4 Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AB.

A separate form for submitting development sites for consideration can be found on our website at: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan

**Our consultation runs from the 19th March to the 8th of May 2018.
Please note the deadline has been extended to Monday 28th May 2018.**



1. YOUR DETAILS

1.1 Please let us know the capacity in which you are completing this questionnaire. Are you...

- A member of the public
- A community representative e.g Community Council

If yes, which area do you represent?

- A developer/ their agent
- A landowner/ their agent
- From a Key Agency
- Other

1.2 Please provide your name and contact details:

Name and Organisation:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

1.3 If you are acting as an agent or completing this on behalf of an organisation, group or landowner, please provide their details:

Organisation/group/landowner:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

2. ABERDEEN'S MAIN PLANNING ISSUES

Feel free to continue on separate sheets if necessary and attach to the questionnaire. You do not have to answer every question.

Vision

2.1 What do you think are the most important things that make Aberdeen a good place to live, visit and/or work?

It is a compact city with easy access to wonderful surrounding coast and countryside.

2.2 What do you think should be the Council's top priorities for the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan?

We believe that many of the negative issues currently affecting the city relate to transport and in particular over-reliance on the private motor car. So our priority would be improvements to active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport.

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?

Our aspiration is to see Aberdeen progress as a modern city with access and transport for all. We believe Aberdeen has fallen far behind other cities because of under-investment in active travel and the over-reliance on the private motor car as a means of transport. This has impacted on air quality, congestion, public health (because people are discouraged from cycling on busy roads) and the balance needs to be changed with policy using more levers to discourage private car use and encourage the alternatives.

Policy Topic Areas

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for...

- 2.4** ...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?)

The city centre faces challenges as retail declines and needs to reinvent itself as a more of a destination or perhaps a return to more residential use. Again we believe transport is key and to make the city centre an attractive place to visit and spend time we need to reduce car use and promote alternative means of transport. Road space needs to be switched from cars and parking to dedicated cycle lanes and more priority bus routes. The recent campaign for a segregated bike route on Union St is an example of something which could re-vitalise and transform what is currently a street in decline.

- 2.5** ...providing infrastructure? (For example, how should new infrastructure be provided and how might it be paid for?)

Existing road space could be reallocated to cycling fairly cheaply if there was the political will to do so. The return on investment in cycle infrastructure has been shown to be x5 with benefits from reduced congestion, improved health etc

Implement congestion charging?

- 2.6** ...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?)

Aberdeen has fallen far behind other cities in terms of modern approaches to transport. Park and ride has not worked in Aberdeen as it does in many other places because it has been poorly thought out and implemented, and because of a lack of priority bus routes. Pedestrianization may be part of the solution but getting people out of their cars is the fundamental issue, either by providing edge of town parking and easy to use link services, or by better promoting alternatives such as dedicated safe cycle routes into the centre.

- 2.7** ...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?)

By encouraging re-development of the city centre, as at 2.4.

- 2.8** ...meeting the needs of business and industry? (For example, what can be done to retain existing businesses and attract new employment opportunities to Aberdeen?)

Address congestion and air quality. Traffic congestion is currently a major disincentive and an economic drain. Aberdeen also consistently appears in the list of cities with the worst air quality.

- 2.9** ...meeting Aberdeen's housing and community needs? (For example, how can we meet the needs of people who cannot afford mainstream housing?)

2.10 ...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?)

It seems obvious that city centre shops are in decline and part of the reason for that is competition from out of town or edge of town retail developments. People favour these because of ease of parking, or because of city centre congestion making it less attractive. Again, providing easy and accessible transport which is not dominated by the private car is the challenge. Existing retail developments seem to be over-capacity (i.e. lots of vacant units) so allowing new developments will only make that worse.

2.11 ...protecting and enhancing the natural environment and preventing flooding? (For example, what areas or features should we be safeguarding?)

We would love to see more green corridors where people can walk and cycle safely and these could deliver benefits on many fronts - biodiversity, air quality and health and wellbeing. To make space for these the Council should consider using roadside space which is currently used for car parking, or by giving up traffic capacity (e.g reducing some streets from 4 lanes to 2)

2.12 ...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?)

Electric vehicles may go some way to improving air quality but we do not believe they are a panacea: congestion would still remain and there will be the challenges of providing enough charging points to meet demand. Again we reiterate that what we believe is needed is a significant switch away from reliance on the private car.

2.13 If you have any views on topics not covered above, please write them below.

You may care to consider that the Scottish Government's target for travel by bike is 10% of all journeys (by 2020). Aberdeen currently manages about 2% and that figure has not varied significantly over the years. We see this as a clear sign that significant policy shift is needed, and much more of the local transport budget should be directed towards active travel.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return completed questionnaires to:

Local Development Plan Team

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Aberdeen
AB10 1AB

Twitter: [@AberdeenLDP](https://twitter.com/AberdeenLDP)

You can also visit the Aberdeen Local Development Plan Facebook page.

COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES SHOULD BE WITH US BY NO LATER THAN 28 MAY 2018.

If you wish to be added to the LDP E-Mailing list to be kept informed of our progress in producing the next Local Development Plan, please tick here.

If yes, please provide an email address