



# 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](http://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

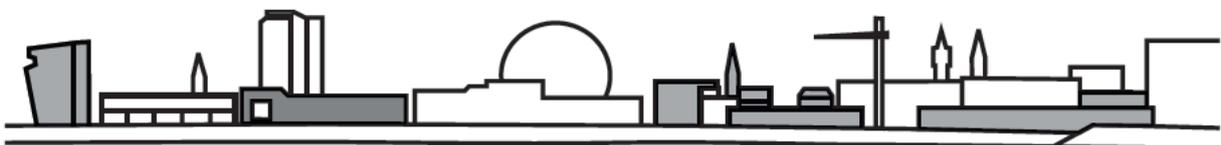
Information you supply to Aberdeen City Council (ACC) in this questionnaire will be used to prepare the Local Development Plan. ACC will not share the personal information provided in this questionnaire with other parties or organisations. ACC will not disclose any contact information about you to any 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](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan)

**Our consultation runs from the 19th March to the 8th of 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?

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

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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

Would like to see more opportunities for local food and other community growing projects in the city (including both allotments, community gardens and other growing spaces) in line with the emerging Food Growing Strategy for the city and part 9 of the Community Empowerment Act 2015.

For full response, please see separate paper submitted with this form.

## 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?)

Would like to see more small-scale growing spaced incorporated into the city centre (for example, use of planters, green seats, window boxes, borders, etc...) and use of these to signpost community growing projects elsewhere in the city.

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

n/a

- 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?)

n/a

- 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?)

n/a

- 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?)

n/a

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

n/a

**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?)

n/a

**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?)

n/a

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

n/a

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

Would like to see specific policies in the LDP which (i) expressly support proposals for the creation of new allotments/local food growing/other community growing projects, together with the infrastructure required to support these (subject to other policies); and (ii) requires all new developments (both residential and commercial) to provide allotments/growing spaces as part of these (which could include, for example, office rooftop gardens, community gardens alongside other community facilities, and a range of growing spaces as part of residential developments). For full response, please see separate paper submitted with this form.

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

**Local Development Plan Team**

Strategic Place Planning  
Aberdeen City Council  
Business Hub 4  
Ground Floor North  
Marischal College  
Broad Street  
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 8 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

## Aberdeen City Council – Local Development Plan Review

### Pre-Main Issues Report Questionnaire 2018

#### Paper apart on support for local food and other community growing initiatives.

#### Background

In the current ALDP 2016, there are some limited references to local food growing as follows:

- **Policy NE3** states that permission will not be granted to redevelop any parks, playing fields, sports pitches, woods, allotments or all other areas of urban green space (including smaller spaces not identified on the Proposals Map) for any use other than recreation and sport.
- **Policy NE4** states that the Council will require the provision of at least 2.8ha per 1,000 people of meaningful and useful open space in new residential development, with further detail on the calculation of open space requirements set out in Supplementary Guidance.
- In turn Supplementary Guidance: Open Space & Green Infrastructure includes allotments and community gardens in the definition of open space and indicates that, for each 1000 properties with less than 60m<sup>2</sup> of private garden space, there should be 0.3ha of such spaces. It then also states that allotments should be no more than 800m from peoples' homes and that the minimum size/number of plots at a site should be determined according to the Technical Advice Note on Planning and Designing Open Space (albeit this no longer appears to be available on the Council's website).
- More generally, the ALDP states that the Plan aims to ensure that new open space provided as part of new development is functional, useful and publicly desirable and indicates that, for example, this may take the form of naturalised areas, green corridors, play space, community growing space or allotments.
- Finally, the ALDP identifies one site for horticulture and/or allotments along with other associated uses, this being Site OP49 at Grove Nursery, Hazlehead.

There is however no explicit policy supporting the creation of new allotments or local food growing spaces, or specifically requiring growing spaces to be included as part of any new development's open space provision. Even the minimal provision set out in the extant supplementary guidance is only phrased as one of the potential ways in which open space can be provided, with no requirement for any open space to actually be provided in this way.

In any event, on the basis that a standard allotment is 250m<sup>2</sup>, then the level of provision set out in the Supplementary Guidance (0.3ha per 1000 properties with less than 60m<sup>2</sup> of private garden space), equates to just 12 allotments per 1000 such properties. In other words, this allows just over 1% of people living in properties without sufficient garden space to grow their own produce at home access to an allotment site on which to do so, while the remaining 99% does not!

### **Wider Policy Context**

Here, it is necessary to look at how the ALDP sits with wider policies and initiatives at both local and national level, including the preparation of a **Food Growing Strategy** for the city as required by the **Community Empowerment (S) Act 2015**. And, while this is still in the early stages, the Council's website makes it clear that the food growing strategy forms just part of an exciting moving to encourage a healthy relationship to local food which is accessible to all and which is good for both people and the planet.

Notably, as part of this work, a survey to inform the preparation of the Food Growing Strategy that was carried out in early 2018 identified that a significant number of people in Aberdeen who currently had no access to anywhere to grow their own food wanted space to do so, while almost half the people who were already doing some element of food growing wanted more space to do so in. This points to a clear need for more land in Aberdeen to be dedicated to local food growing use.

In terms of the role of the ALDP in dedicating more land for such use, **National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3)** recognises that natural assets in and around urban areas have a key role to play in supporting sustainable growth, maintaining distinctiveness and promoting quality of life, and expressly states that the identification of land for food production within towns and cities will become increasingly important in terms of supporting more localised food distribution networks, reducing emissions and building longer-term resilience [4.13. and 4.18]. At the same time, it also highlights that the **Scottish Government's Land Use Strategy** encourages the best use of assets to support activities including food production. In line with this, **Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)** requires local development plans to encourage opportunities for a range of community growing spaces [277].

### **Proposed Policies**

It is submitted that, if the Council is genuinely committed to encouraging healthy relationships to local food, increasing food growing across the city as a whole, and providing the spaces for food growing that people are looking for, then this needs to be far more strongly reflected in ALDP policies than it is at present. Likewise, more robust policies on community food growing are required to reflect the provisions of NPF3, SPP and the Land Use Strategy as outlined above.

Specifically, it is submitted that:

- **Policy NE3** should be revised to expressly refer to all forms of local food and community growing spaces as well as allotments in the definition of urban green spaces that are to be protected from re-development, including (but not necessarily limited to) community gardens, city farms, orchards, and roof gardens.
- **Policy NE4** should be revised to include an express requirement for food or other community growing spaces to be provided as part of all new development, with a number of ways in which this could be done depending on the type of development involved. For example, some developments could provide serviced land for allotments or community growing projects, while others could be designed such that roof areas are available for growing. Or, where appropriate, financial contributions could be made towards existing growing projects in the area if this would allow such projects to develop a larger site that would then give access to growing opportunities to people associated with new development. For the avoidance of doubt, this should apply to all types of development, not just residential.
- A **new policy** should be introduced into the LDP which expressly supports proposals for the creation of new allotments and other food and community growing projects, as well as the infrastructure required to support these (subject always to other policies). On this, inspiration can be taken from a number of local authorities elsewhere, in particular:
  - **Brighton and Hove City** - The [Brighton and Hove City Plan Part 1](#), adopted March 2016, specifically supports local food growing initiatives as part of their policy to create and maintain sustainable neighbourhoods. In turn, all developments are expected to demonstrate how they will encourage food growing, and the council is committed to recognising, safeguarding and encouraging the role of allotments, garden plots within developments, small scale agriculture, and farmers markets in providing access to healthy, affordable locally produced food options. This is supported by a [Food Growing Planning Advice Note](#), which provides technical input and inspiration on how food growing can be incorporated into proposals for new development.
  - **Monmouthshire** – the Monmouthshire Local Development Plan, adopted February 2014, is supported by Supplementary Planning Guidance on Green Infrastructure which expressly recognises a wide range of growing projects as examples of Green Infrastructure Assets (namely allotments, community gardens, city farms, orchards, roof gardens and urban edge farmland), and expressly identifies local food growing as one of Green Infrastructure’s functions as identified below.

**GI Function local food production**



An estimated 33% of people already grow or intend to grow their own vegetables.  
UK National Food 2030 Strategy (DEFRA, 2019)

**GI Benefits**

- £ **Economic** Can help to strengthen the local economy by supporting local retailers, growers and producers and can contribute to the creation of attractive places to live, work and visit.
- 🌿 **Environmental** Contributes to sustainable food production and consumption and a reduction in food miles. Also provides valuable habitats for wildlife.
- 👥 **Social** Helps community spirit and offers opportunities for socialising, learning and health improvements.

**Key design considerations**

- Does the scheme meet adopted minimum standards for allotment provision?
- Have adequately sized rear gardens been provided to allow small-scale domestic food production?
- Do the proposals for the site make best use of off-site places nearby where the production of food can take place and is this close to where people will live?
- What opportunity is there to combine food production with other GI functions such as energy production, access and recreation?
- What is the potential for community orchards, city/school farms and other edible landscapes such as hedgerows to be incorporated into the scheme?
- Has the use of livestock been considered to reduce/maintain management costs within the GI network?
- Has a site-wide composting strategy for garden and food waste been developed? Garden and food waste can be utilised as compost for allotments and renewable energy production.
- What opportunities are there to explore the potential for locally grown food to be used by local schools and other community facilities? Have opportunities for community food growing been looked at?

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All development proposals are then expected to map existing Green Infrastructure around the site, consider how the development can contribute to local needs and opportunities, and then incorporate proposals the maintain, protect and enhance Green Infrastructure into the development. As an example of this, it is stated that:

*“The cost and scale of GI provision incorporated into a scheme should reflect the scale and type of development proposed. For example, a major housing development scheme could include the provision of extensive sustainable drainage systems, food production areas and a large proportion of accessible green space. Smaller developments on the scale of a single dwelling could contribute by providing a green roof, a garden or bird/bat nesting boxes.”*

These examples, and many more, show the potential for local food growing to be championed through the Development Plan, and there is no reason why a similar approach cannot be taken in Aberdeen.

- Finally, in preparing the emerging LDP, Council should actively be seeking to identify significantly more land which could be allocated for community growing uses (including, but not exclusively, allotments), to tie in with the work that is currently being done on the preparation of a food growing strategy for the city.