

Response ID ANON-WYN9-4SFY-W

Submitted to **Local Development Plan - Pre-Main Issues Report Questionnaire**

Submitted on **2018-05-04 15:01:01**

Introduction

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

A member of the public

If you are a community representative, which area do you represent?:

If you answered Other, please tell us who you are.:

2 Please provide your name and contact details?

Name and Organisation::

Alison Stuart, Aberdeen Climate Action

Address::

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone::

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

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::

4 May we have your permission to publish your name and/or organisation alongside your comments?

Yes

Aberdeen's Main Planning Issues

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

The most important things that make Aberdeen a good place to live, visit and/or work?:

The ease by which you can quickly be in nature. I like the fact you can walk easily around the city centre. I enjoy the community feeling where I live.

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

What should be the Council's top priorities for the next Local Development Plan?:

To ensure we take account of our climate change obligations and reduce carbon emissions as same time as creating caring and integrated communities and positive travel flow i.e. Fully insulated/ passive buildings with integral renewable energy within the building itself; connected 'green' transport routes - safe walking and biking routes to amenities, on street charging points for electric cars and excellent public transport routes; ensuring community green growing spaces; regeneration and reuse of urban space as opposed to building new malls.

3 Do you have any particular aspirations for your community or Aberdeen as a whole that you think should be taken forward through the Aberdeen Local Development Plan? For example, what are your views on recycling of waste, affordable housing, access to green space or ways to reduce CO2 emissions?

Do you have any particular aspirations for your community or Aberdeen as a whole that you think should be taken forward through the Aberdeen Local Development Plan:

I believe that we should be looking for ways to reduce our carbon emissions at the same time as building in adaptive methods. The planning process plays a crucial part in this. If all new buildings were passive/ fully insulated and had their own renewable energy source then this would dramatically reduce our grid energy supply and decarbonise our heating systems. We need green attractive affordable housing that is fully connected to walking and biking routes and public transport. Each community should have its own green spaces and governance committee. We need to build in urban growing spaces and green walkways connected each settlement. To encourage walking and biking we need them separate from roads so they are safe and pleasant to use. Any new road/ settlement needs to build in segregated bike paths to encourage active green travel. There should be more community swap shops and 'libraries of everything' so people don't need to buy under utilised items i.e. Drills etc. These things create a climate of giving and help and reduce needless consumerism, reduce poverty and carbon emissions.

Policy Topic Areas

1 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for the City Centre?:

Union street needs to be rejuvenated and pedestrianised. It is dying at present. No planning permission should be given for new or expansion of existing malls, instead shops should be encouraged to move into Union St. and its surrounding streets. If distance/walking is an issue then if Union St. was pedestrianised you could have a section for a electric trolley bus/ golf cart to take those less mobile around. Union Street is the heart of Aberdeen: we need shops not betting places and empty store fronts. There is no need for cars on it: pedestrianise it and put in a segregated bike path, benches, trees, play area , covered drink terraces - make it attractive. Have proper busking spots, encourage lingering, bring life back to the centre. We need more safe biking routes and less cars in the centre.

2 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for providing infrastructure? :

I think infrastructure should be planned with lowering carbon emissions and living sustainably in mind. Segregated bike paths are a must to increase journeys by bike. Plan for the future rather than the status quo: we need more integrated travel and less car ownership so there needs to be bike paths to bus and rail stations, covered bike stands/ lockers there; obvious bike rental at those places. There needs to be proactive planning for increased populations. Where there is a need for affordable housing do not allow luxury housing to be built. Ensure that schools etc. are built before the old schools are bursting at the seams; do not allow building on flood planes, ensure working with nature and design 'wetlands' to prevent flooding. Do not allow concreting over of gardens. Builders need to pay more for infrastructure that their developments require and need to be held accountable for their obligations. Utility companies need to completely overhaul roads they dig up not simply patch and create potholes.

3 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for transport and accessibility?:

We should pedestrianize the city centre. We should have segregated bike paths and a means of ensuring those less able can get around safely without the use of cars in the city centre. That could be by trolley bus or golf cart. We need connected walkways and bike routes that are safe and easy to use. We need better and more reliable buses going north to south not just east to west and a really connected transport system and flow, as set out in answers above.

4 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for ensuring we have high quality buildings and places?:

Harsh environmental standards to make net zero carbon buildings. We need innovation not ugly boxes cheaply made. Invest in in new eco designs and support them i.e. competitions. Reward sustainable building. Protect old architecture from transport fumes by preventing emitting cars and buses in the city centre. Give thorough guidance and help on what you want re design i.e. eco standard. Build in green living walls and roof gardens and reward designs and builders who create innovative sustainable buildings.

5 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for meeting the needs of business and industry? :

Invest in the future - look to attract clean tech companies and the renewables industry. Give support to SMEs - by creating connected segregated bike paths, for example, related services increase - more bike shops etc. but also there is an uptake in retail sales along streets as bikes can stop and park in ways cars can't - you support smaller shops and support local entrepreneurs this way.

6 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for meeting Aberdeen's housing and community needs?:

There needs to be an investment in green social housing but also a relax on the rules re static caravans etc. There are numerous small, cheap, easy to erect, eco homes on the market/ being designed that could be utilised. Allow people to buy land for this purpose. Disallow empty houses - so many properties stand empty - they should be rented out. There needs to be planning permission given for attractive eco affordable housing. You could sell/ rent land cheap and allow people on low incomes the freedom to create their own houses within certain eco standards - it has worked in Manchester and various other places - give communities the power!

7 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for supporting retail centres across Aberdeen?:

We should safeguard the existing retail centres, especially union st and the on street shops. We should encourage independent shops and cafes and a wee centre in each community. I do not think we should have anymore out of town retail parks - there is no need and it just encourages more car travel/ carbon emissions.

8 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for protecting and enhancing the natural environment and preventing flooding?:

We need to protect our flood plains and institute wetlands. We need to work on methods to stop/ reduce coastal erosion. Look at how nature does it best! There needs to be a restriction on the amount of concrete in people's gardens and a certain amount of water soakage land required per mile. There should be more tree planting and plants that soak up water/ stop erosion and build the banks.

9 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?)

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for ensuring that resources and waste are managed sustainably? :

We need to aggressively ensure that all new buildings are powered by renewable energy, especially the heating. No token affair but a real commitment. Water retention/ butts and storage should be required also in new building to cut down on water usage. There should be community food fridges; swap shops; veg stalls/ swaps; lending libraries of things - all these increase community spirit and reduce waste. How about community composting?

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

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

There needs to be a joined up approach across council and government departments to ensure that planning ties in with our Climate change obligations and that other departments do their bit to ensure the planning restrictions/ obligations/ guarantees are upheld especially re money given by private companies. Carbon reduction needs to be mainstreamed and taken seriously as a main priority. This can only happen if projects such as Powering Aberdeen are actually retained and acted upon and Sustainability is a corporate function within the council and government.

11 If you have any further information you would like to upload please do so below

File upload:

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12 If you wish to be added to the LDP emailing list be be kept informed of the progress of the local development plan, please provide your email address:

Newsletter list :

[REDACTED]