

# Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan

## Agenda for the Strategic Options Meeting

### Towards the identification of a preferred strategic option

This meeting is designed to capture your views on what the strategy for the distribution of future development should be – your preferred strategic option for the next structure plan. In addition, we will seek to capture your views on issues of the scale and timing of development.

This meeting is one of over 20 taking place across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. The consultation sits alongside a detailed technical evaluation of the options and it is this evaluation that will highlight the feasibility of the options and the challenges they will create, in terms of infrastructure provision.

#### AGENDA

- 1. Introductions and overview of the event**

This will introduce the strategic planning team present and outline the form, content and expectations of the event. (5 minutes)
- 2. Background to the structure plan, the development plan scheme and the proposals for developing the plan.**

Officers will provide a brief presentation on the plan-making process and will outline how the meeting fits in with this process. (5 minutes)
- 3. Draft vision and issues**

Officers will present a draft vision and a series of 13 issues, which are currently being consulted on as part of the 'Issues report'. (5 minutes)
- 4. Plenary and recorded discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the different questions of scale**

How much development is a critical issue for the new structure plan, and we would welcome your views on the broad options presented. (15 minutes)
- 5. Possible strategic options**

A brief explanation of the process used to develop the strategic options will provide the context for the group exercise. (10 minutes)
- 6. Group Exercise (further information provided below)**

Groups of attendees will undertake the following:

  - (a)** an informal discussion of the strategic options, including the selection of one or two for detailed evaluation - coffee available. (20 minutes)
  - (b)** an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of different spatial options (30 minutes).

(c) a distributing of development within their preferred strategic option (10 minutes)

**7. Plenary and recorded discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of various phasing options**

The timing of development is a key point for discussion. Development could be promoted evenly through the 25-year plan period or we could seek to “front load” or “back load” the allocations of land made. (5 minutes)

**8. Thank-you and next steps (5 minutes)**

**Total Meeting time: approximately 2 hours**

**Discussion 1. Issues of Scale**

- 25% of all development for rural and local need, 75% “strategic allocations.”
- 66% of strategic allocations in major theme of the strategy.
- 33% of strategic allocations in minor theme of strategy.
  
- Low growth= forecast housing and employment land +10% (22500 houses, 339ha employment land).
- Medium Growth= historical housing completions and employment land +20% (41250 houses, 408 ha employment land).
- High growth= historical housing completions+20% and employment land +30% (49500 houses and 442 ha employment land).

# Group exercise

## Purpose

This exercise is designed to find out your views on the different options for the spread of development in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

The exercise is based on your **opinions** – which of the options you like and dislike rather than any detailed knowledge that you may have. A technical assessment of the options is also taking place as a separate exercise with relevant organisations such as Scottish Water, and the Roads Authorities.

## Background

We have identified a set of **possible options** for the spread of development around Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. These were initially discussed with community groups back in September last year. They have now been refined for the purpose of facilitating this consultation. Out of the many thousands of different possibilities we are pretty confident that the structure plan will need to follow one of these different patterns.

What we would like you to do now is to help us assess these to find out how much everyone agrees on the pattern that would be the most beneficial for the area as a whole. We would also like you to identify for us what you see as the main reasons for coming to your conclusions (both arguments for and against, and why one outweighs the other).

We are also keen to find out which patterns are most disliked, and why.

## What to do

There are three elements to the exercise:

### a) Identify options for detailed appraisal

We will ask you to come together into small groups (of 4 or 5 people). Please identify someone who is to record the views of the group.

Please spend some time looking at the boards around the room and considering the information sent out to you, and consider what the advantages and disadvantages of each approach is likely to be.

In your group, please identify the options you would like to give us your views on. We would be very pleased if you could pick one that you would like to see brought forward (your groups “preferred strategic option”), and a second you would like to be dismissed from further consideration.

### b) Appraisal of the preferred strategic option

For each of the options selected, please discuss and record the good points of the proposed distribution as well as any bad points. We would specifically like you to judge whether the possible options:

- minimises or increases resource use and impacts on climate?
- have an impact on environmental quality?
- have an impact on the regional economy and economic growth?
- are fair?
- increases choice and quality of life

Please do this first for the possible option your group would like to see adopted, then for the possible option you would not like to see adopted, and then if you have time, for any other options you feel strongly about. The recorder should seek to make a note of these advantages and disadvantages for each option discussed on the form provided.

Facilitators will be circulating around the groups to assist with the discussion and to help where they can.

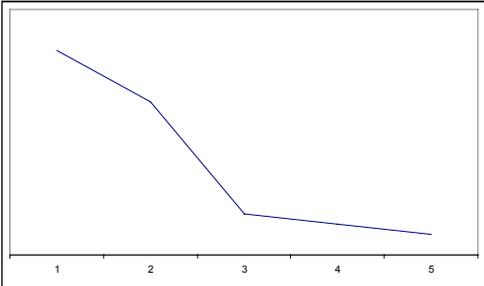
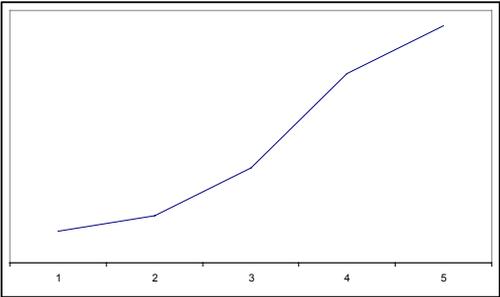
**c) Distribution of development within your preferred strategic option**

On the table you will find 20 sweets, these represent development.

Please place these 20 units of development on the map supplied to represent how you think the development should be distributed within the pattern dictated by your preferred strategic option.

Please do not eat the sweets until your view has been recorded by one of the facilitators present!

**Discussion 2 Phasing of development**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Front loading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•risks of “cherry picking”</li><li>•economic boost</li><li>•inflexible</li><li>•risky</li></ul> |    |
| <p><b>Sustained rate of development</b></p>   |   |
|    | <p><b>Back loading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•precautionary</li><li>•promotes development of previously used land</li><li>•unresponsive</li></ul> |