

Introduction

The purpose of this Action Programme is to set out the key strategic actions needed to implement the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (SDP), and to achieve the SDP's Vision, Aims, Targets and Objectives. The Action Programme has been prepared by the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA). Actions are, however, not limited to those by the SDPA, and both Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council will have to work together and collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders in order to ensure the SDP can be delivered.

Our intention is for this Action Programme to be a working document that can be continually updated to reflect progress. More detail will be added as we move forward, and as new actions are identified, e.g. through the City Region Deal. The Action Programme will be formally published every two years, and updates will be highlighted in red.

There are over 80 actions identified in this Action Programme, and numerous partners will help deliver and implement the Strategic Development Plan.

The Action Programme focuses on:

- Actions to deliver cross-boundary infrastructure and infrastructure of regional importance;
- Actions to help deliver national developments; and,
- Actions that require the input and coordination of more than one Council to deliver.

For each action, the Action Programme sets out:

- The name of the Partners who are to carry out the action;
- The name of the Lead Partner where this is appropriate / applicable;
- The broad timescale for carrying out each action; and,
- Notes on progress.

This Action Programme has been developed in consultation with both Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council, the Scottish Government, the key agencies, as well as other public and private stakeholders.

There are a number of Acronyms used in this Action Programme and, for ease of reference, these are set out below:

AREG – Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group

AWPR – Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route

CIVITAS – Institute for the Study of Civil Society

CCS – Carbon Capture and Storage

CO2 – Carbon Dioxide

EU – European Union

HES – Historic Environment Scotland

HRA – Habitats Regulation Appraisal

HSE – Health and Safety Executive

HNDA – Housing Needs and Demand Assessment

HVDC – High Voltage Direct Current

HVAC – High Voltage Alternating Current

JNCC – Joint Nature Conservation Committee

LDP – Local Development Plan

Nescol – North East Scotland College

NPF – National Planning Framework (NPF 3 Published 2014)

Nestrans – North East Scotland Transport Partnership

ONE – Opportunity North East

RTS – Regional Transport Strategy (prepared by Nestrans - first RTS published 2008, with a refresh in 2013)

SDP – Strategic Development Plan

SDPA – Strategic Development Planning Authority

SEPA – Scottish Environment Protection Agency

SFRA – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

SHET – Scottish Hydro Energy Transmission

SNH – Scottish Natural Heritage

STAG – Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance

UK – United Kingdom

WFD – Water Framework Directive

No.	Action	Partners <i>(Lead indicated in bold)</i>	Timescale for Action / Delivery (Short-term less than years, Medium-term 5-10 years, Long-term 10 years plus)	Details of Action / Notes on Progress
Our Vision and Our Spatial Strategy				
1	Prepare Local Development Plans (LDPs) consistent with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP).	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Adoption of next LDPs anticipated 2022.	Local Development Plans should be consistent with the Strategic Development Plan and all supporting documents, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulation Appraisal, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Housing Methodology Paper and Cumulative Transport Appraisal. Development Plan Schemes were published for both Local Development Plans in early 2018 and will be updated in early 2019. The first stages of LDP preparations are ongoing - Pre MIR and Bid consultation was undertaken in 2018 and proposed allocations are being assessed. Current timelines are as follows: 2018 / 2019 - Main Issues Reports 2020 / 2021 - Proposed Plans 2021 - Submit Proposed Plans for Examination 2022 - Adoption
2	Use the SDP in the determination of planning applications	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Monitor and review delivery within 3-5 years.	The SDP 2020 will form part of the Development Plan once it is approved by Scottish Ministers. Both Councils should determine planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Until that point, the extant SDP 2014 remains the approved document. The Proposed Plan, alongside the existing Plan, will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
3	City Region Deal - Innovation Hubs	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA, Opportunity North East, UK Government, Scottish Government	Short-term.	The SDP will direct Local Development Plans to allocate sites for the Innovation Hub projects. Three have been hubs identified - Oil and Gas Tech Centre (established but may require future extension / relocation), Bio-Therapeutic Hub for Innovation (2020) and Agri-Food Hub for innovation (TBA).
4	City Region Deal - Strategic Transport Appraisal	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA, Nestrans, Opportunity North East, UK Government, Scottish Government, Transport Scotland	Short and Medium-term.	The SDPA will work with all partners on a Strategic Transport Appraisal (funded by the City Region Deal) to investigate the future transport infrastructure and services required for the City Region.
5	National Planning Framework 4	Scottish Government, SDPA, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Promotion of regional perspective ongoing.	The SDPA will participate in early engagement with Scottish Government and other Strategic Development Planning Authorities on co-production of the next NPF. The SDPA will respond to consultation requests and commit to assisting Scottish Government with preparing the document. The SDPA will respond to consultations on the Proposed Framework and, if relevant, the Scottish Parliamentary process.
6	National Marine Plan and Regional Marine Planning.	Regional Marine Partnerships, SDPA, SNH, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short to Medium-term. Partnerships still to be established.	Following the establishment of the two Regional Marine Planning Partnerships, the SDPA will participate and contribute to the preparation of the Regional Marine Plans. The Regional Partnership arrangements and Plans will allow the Plans to be developed to take account of local circumstances and smaller ecosystem units. They require to be developed in accordance with the National Marine Plan and Marine Policy Statement to ensure they are consistent with national objectives and priorities. Local Development Plans should have regard to the National Marine Plan, and Regional Plans where appropriate.
7	Regional Transport Strategy	Nestrans, SDPA, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Commencement of revision of RTS started 2018.	The SDPA will work cooperatively with Nestrans on the review and development of the Regional Transport Strategy.
8	Regional Economic Strategy	ONE, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA, Nestrans	Short to Medium-term. As and when reviews underway.	The SDPA will input into future reviews of the Regional Economic Strategy and contribute to Regional Economic Partnership working with both Councils.
9	Strategic Walking / Cycling Links/ Green Networks	Nestrans, SDPA, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, Transport Scotland, Developers, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission, CIVITAS.	Across Plan period and subject to review following monitoring.	The SDPA will facilitate joint working with partners to seek opportunities to improve and enhance access to strategic walking/cycling networks, cross settlement and cross boundary connectivity. Work will be coordinated through the Nestrans Active Travel Action Plan 2014-2035 which identifies strategic and long-distance links. Additional work will be undertaken through Aberdeen City Council's Core Path Plans (refresh planned 2018/2019), Aberdeenshire Council's Outdoor Access Strategy 2018-2021 (to be approved by Council 2018) and Strategic Cycle Route Programmes and the Local Transport Strategies. Synergies with the National Walking and Cycling Network will be explored. Opportunities will be explored where these projects / strategies could enhance the connectivity of existing and new development to green networks, blue green corridors and existing active travel infrastructure. The Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Local Development Plans will have a role to play in identifying opportunities at a settlement level. SDP images show indicative locations only.

No.	Action	Partners <i>(Lead indicated in bold)</i>	Timescale for Action / Delivery (Short-term less than years, Medium-term 5-10 years, Long-term 10 years plus)	Details of Action / Notes on Progress
10	A96 Dualling - Inverness to Aberdeen	Transport Scotland , Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Short to longer-term for route development and delivery. Ongoing input. Route options to be clarified in 2019. Completion by 2030.	The SDPA will work with Nestrans and Aberdeenshire Council on route options for the A96 Dualling. The Dualling of the A96 will contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Development Plan's Spatial Strategy and regional growth aspirations. Route options will be outlined in the next 5 years and will contribute to a future review of the SDP through monitoring of options and project delivery. Dualling will start at the western end (Inverness / Nairn). The eastern section will involve a new dual carriageway between east of Huntly and Aberdeen. In July 2017 Transport Scotland awarded a contract to AmeyArup to carry out route options assessment and detailed design work for Dualling the eastern section of the A96 between east of Huntly and Aberdeen. It is expected that the route options assessment work will be completed in summer 2019.
11	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route	Transport Scotland , Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans	Short-term. Expected completion 2018-2019.	The SDPA will monitor delivery of this important strategic project as it makes a critical contribution to the delivery of the Proposed Plan. It will be essential that next LDPs will protect the route and its junctions and lock in the benefits of this essential piece of new strategic road infrastructure.
Strategic Growth Area - Aberdeen City				
12	Strategic Waste Management Facility and Energy from Waste	Aberdeen City Council	Short-term. Facility expected to be operational 2020	The SDPA will continue to monitor the quantity of waste going to landfill in the City Region to confirm that the trend continues to decline. The Waste Management Facility was approved subject to conditions in October 2016. The development will meet identified regional waste management requirements. The consent needs to be implemented in line with conditions and timely to address identified need. Plant expected to be operational 2020.
13	Improved Cross City Connections for Active Travel	Aberdeen City Council , Nestrans, SPDA	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will facilitate joint working with partners to seek opportunities to improve and enhance access to strategic walking/cycling networks to improve cross city connections. Work will be coordinated through the Nestrans Active Travel Action Plan 2014-2035 which identifies strategic and long-distance links. Additional work will be undertaken through Aberdeen City Council's Core Path Plans (refresh planned 2018/2019). Synergies with the National Walking and Cycling Network will be explored. Opportunities will be explored where these projects / strategies could enhance the connectivity of existing and new development to green networks, blue green corridors and existing active travel infrastructure. The Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Local Development Plans will have a role to play in identifying such opportunities at a settlement level. SDP images show indicative locations only.
14	Improved Cross Boundary Connections for Active Travel/Green Networks	Aberdeen City Council , Aberdeenshire Council , Nestrans, SDPA	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans explore opportunities to develop improved cross boundary active travel connections and green networks (and synergies of the two). Connections and networks may be achieved through the use of River Corridors, existing or future green networks (greenbelt) and existing or planned development. Where possible improved connections should seek to enhance existing green networks. Aberdeen City Local Development Plan has seen success at a Local Authority level with policies such as NE1, NE2, and NE3 which protect existing and promote planned Green Space and Green Space Networks. Additionally the implementation of the Aberdeen City Green Space Network has given a clearer picture at a Local Authority Level. The next set of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Local Development Plans will have a role to play in continuing identify such opportunities at a settlement level. SDP images show indicative locations only.
15	Walking/Active Travel Opportunities/Coastal Trail	Aberdeen City Council , Aberdeenshire Council , SDPA	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council explore opportunities to enhance walking/active travel opportunities along blue green corridors and the coastal trail. Joint working between Aberdeen City Council's Core Paths Plan and Aberdeenshire Council's Outdoor Access Strategy will enable progress. The next set of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Local Development Plans will have a role to play in identifying such opportunities at a settlement level. SDP images show indicative locations only.
16	Aberdeen International Airport	Aberdeen International Airport , Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Medium-term. Ongoing	The SDPA will work with Aberdeen International Airport and the other partners to assist in the delivery of the Airport Masterplan and to develop the potential of the the Airport's surface access infrastructure.
17	Regional Mortuary Facility	NHS Grampian , Aberdeen City Council	Medium-term. Ongoing	The SDPA recognises the importance of the development of a Regional Mortuary Facility. The Aberdeen City Local Development Plan is directed to facilitate site identification to aid the progress of this proposal. A project team and project board have been set up with Achieving Excellence Design Evaluation Tool and Design Statement workshops completed earlier this year. The Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Foresterhill campus has been identified as the preferred site with several locations identified on the campus.
18	Possible New Rail Stations at Aberdeen North and South	Nestrans , Aberdeen City , Aberdeenshire Council , SDPA, Transport Scotland	Short-term/Long-term	Partners will undertake a study to explore the potential for an enhanced local rail service. This will start when there is greater clarity about the nature and timing of the improvements to the railway north and south of Aberdeen (expected 2019-2020) and should come under the umbrella of the City Region Deal. The feasibility of new stations will be within the remit of that study. The study should result from an appraisal in line with the principles of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG).
19	City Region Deal - Aberdeen South Harbour	Aberdeen City Council , Aberdeenshire Council , SDPA, Nestrans , Opportunity North East , UK Government , Scottish Government	Short-term/Long-term	Aberdeen South Harbour is currently under construction and expected to be completed in 2020. City Region Deal partners are to identify options for local and strategic transport access to the South Harbour through £25m investment in the surround roads infrastructure. A study is currently being undertaken to examine external links to Aberdeen South Harbour. Partners will be mindful of future development opportunities for Aberdeen Harbour.

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20	Development of new Road Hierarchy	Aberdeen City Council, Nestrans, SPDA	Long-term. 2018 onwards	The SDPA will continue to work with partners to promote greater transport efficiencies in the City Region. The continued success of the City Region is predicated on traffic being diverted away from the City Centre and reducing through traffic. Nestrans and Aberdeen City Council commenced a review of Aberdeen City's Roads Hierarchy in July 2018. This review to be completed in early 2019. This is line with the City Region Deal's Strategic Transport Appraisal which has published its interim Transport Planning Objectives and include a focus on better access to public transport and reducing the need to travel by private car.
21	City Region Deal - Digital Infrastructure Programme	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Opportunity North East, UK Government, Scottish Government	Short-term	The SDPA will support the City Region Deal's investment programme of £27m into the digital infrastructure in the City Region. Five projects have been identified: City Network Extension (main Aberdeen city areas), Local Fibre Infrastructure (suburban and rural sites), City Duct Network, Sensor Network and Regional Data Exchange. The City Network Extension is in progress, with CityFibre and Vodafone announcing a £40m investment in Aberdeen to roll out Gigabit Fibre across the City, connecting homes and businesses during 2018-2020. The build commenced in July 2018. By the end of 2020 it is expected there will be 389 public sector sites connected to ultrafast services, and infrastructure will potentially connect 60% of premises within the Aberdeen City Region with gigabit speed fibre.
22	City Centre Transformation Zone	Aberdeen City Council, SDPA, Invest Aberdeen	Medium-term. Ongoing	The SDP recognises the importance of Aberdeen City Centre and the Town Centre First Principle. The City Centre Transformation Zone will provide a land use planning context for objectives outlined in the City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme, and direct the Aberdeen City local Development Plan to identify associated projects. The Transformation Zone will focus on further integration of placemaking creating a cleaner, greener, better-connected, more vibrant and dynamic city centre.
Strategic Growth Area - Aberdeen to Peterhead				
23	Simplified Planning Zone	Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Ongoing	Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee has approved (in 2017) that Officers begin the statutory process of creating a Simplified Planning Zone. The Aberdeenshire Council Planning Information and Delivery Team should continue to facilitate this process with support from the SDPA where required.
24	Energetica	Aberdeenshire Council, Invest Aberdeen, SNH, Scottish Enterprise, Aberdeen City Council	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will continue to work with Partners to support the Energetica project. Energetica is 10 years into a 25-year programme to support the growth of a world class development corridor between Aberdeen and Peterhead in the north-east of Scotland which offers investment and growth opportunities for energy, engineering and technology organisations of all sizes and offers an award-winning quality of life, all set in a stunning coastal environment.
25	Green Network Opportunities/Blue Green Corridor	Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Long-term	The SDPA and Aberdeenshire Council will explore opportunities for green networks in the Aberdeen to Peterhead Strategic Growth Area. Opportunities may be the use of river corridors and existing designated sites and development of strategic bike projects. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will play a key role in identifying existing and proposed new green networks and, where appropriate, consider enhancement and implementation opportunities, including through new development. SDP images show indicative locations only.
26	Improved Cross Boundary Connections for Active Travel/Green Networks	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans, SDPA	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans explore opportunities to develop improved cross boundary active travel connections and green networks (and synergies of the two). Connections and networks may be achieved through the use of River Corridors, existing or future green networks (greenbelt) and existing or planned development within the limitation of the development plan. Where possible improved connections should seek to enhance existing green networks. SDP images show indicative locations only.
27	Strategic Bike Project	Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Ongoing.	The Ellon to Newburgh Cycle Route has completed feasibility studies and is now entering the design phase. Local Development Plans should considered links at a settlement level.
28	Walking/Active Travel Opportunities/Coastal Trail	Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA, SNH, private land owners	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with partners to explore opportunities for enhanced walking, active travel and coastal trails through the Peterhead Strategic Growth Area. Expectations must be realistic given the distances between settlements and the cost of maintaining such trails. The Aberdeenshire Outdoor Access Strategy 2018-2021 will consider core paths in this area. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will continue to identify opportunities at a settlement level. SDP images show indicative locations only.
29	Continue development of National Decommissioning Centre at Newburgh	Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, University of Aberdeen	Long-term. Ongoing	The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will promote the development and associated facilities.
30	A90 and A952 Improvements	Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council, Private sector, Transport Scotland, Aberdeen City Council	Medium-term. Ongoing	The SDPA will work with Nestrans and Aberdeenshire Council to explore route actions to provide journey time and safety improvements. Fraserburgh and Peterhead to Aberdeen Strategic Transport Study has been commissioned with Stage 1 Appraisal completed in Spring 2016. Three options are to be taken forward to STAG 2. STAG 1 identifies options for improving journey times, safety and reliability including Ellon by-pass, Toll of Birness and the routes north. Assessment and discussion is ongoing amongst stakeholders with emerging specific work relating to roundabouts.

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31	Offshore Electricity Transmission HVDC links to: (1) North of England; and (2) Norway NorthConnect.	(1) SHET , Scottish Power Energy Networks and National Grid. SHET also will be leading on the works at Peterhead. (2) NorthConnect and SHET (SHET providing the AC connection to the Transmission Network via the new Peterhead 400kV GIS Substation), Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, SDPA, JNCC, SEPA, SNH, HSE	Medium-term. North of England HVDC currently scheduled for completion in 2027. Short-term. NorthConnect scheduled for completion by 2022.	The SDPA will monitor the delivery and environmental objectives of the SDP (renewable energy generation targets). These projects are nationally important and their delivery will require them to meet environmental objectives of the SDP. (1) Works to North of England are being led by SHET, Scottish Power Energy Networks and National Grid. SHET will be leading on the works within the region e.g. Peterhead. (2) Works for the HVDC Link to Norway will be led by NorthConnect, SHET are providing the AC connection to the Transmission Network via the new Peterhead 400kV GIS Substation. Both proposals are important for national infrastructure connections. Northconnect have proposed that the underground cables will landfall at Long Haven Bay, and connect to a converter station at Fourfields near Boddam, Peterhead, where the electricity will be converted from High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) to High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC). An HVAC cable will then connect the converter station to the National Grid network at a new Peterhead substation.
32	Offshore Wind Energy Generation and onshore connections.	SHET , Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, SDPA, JNCC, SEPA, SNH, HSE	Short-term identified project delivery but medium to longer-term additional projects anticipated.	National Infrastructure developments. Local Development Plans will be mindful of the need to enable progress of project as required. Includes: Hywind (Peterhead), Aberdeen Bay, Moray and Kincardine Offshore.
33	CO2 Pipeline associated with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) with links to St Fergus.	National Grid, Pale Blue Dot, Scottish Enterprise, St Fergus Gas Terminal (Operators) , Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, SDPA.	Short-term to medium-term. To be kept under review regarding progress.	Local Development Plans will ensure that any necessary corridors and landfalls are protected to enable progress of this project in line with the economic, social and environmental objectives of this SDP. Carbon Capture and Storage at St Fergus is a National Planning Framework 3 project and continues to be supported in the SDP.
Strategic Growth Area - Aberdeen to Huntly				
34	A96 Dual Carriageway (Listed under Strategic Projects)	Transport Scotland , Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, SDPA	Long-term (Completion by 2030). Ongoing. Completion by 2030	The SDPA will continue to engage with Transport Scotland, Nestrans and Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeen City Council in relation to the route bypassing Inverurie and its impact on Inverurie. Consultants Amey/Arup are currently working on route options which may be presented towards the end of 2018. The preferred option and resulting consultation is planned for the second half of 2019. Work relating to the Inverurie bypass will inform the review of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan.
35	Rail Service Enhancements Aberdeen -Inverness	Transport Scotland, Scotland Rail and Network Rail , Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Across plan period (2018 - 2030)	The SDPA will continue to engage with partners on this project and advise on the level and location of future development. The project has been phased over 15-20 years, but with service improvements in the Aberdeen-Inverurie area being the early priority. Phase 1 is currently under construction, and includes capacity improvements between Aberdeen and Inverurie. Phase 2 is committed, but is not detailed in Network Rail 2019-2024 Delivery Period (Control Period 6). Infrastructure and Services from Aberdeen to Inverurie will come online in 2019. Kintore Rail Station will be operational by end of 2019. Phase 2 improvements will consider improvements and better connectivity, improved journey times and more regular trains between Aberdeen and Inverness.
36	Green Network Opportunities/Blue Green Corridor	Aberdeenshire Council , SDPA	Long-term	The SDPA and Aberdeenshire Council will explore opportunities for green networks in the Aberdeen to Huntly Strategic Growth Area. Opportunities may be the use of river corridors and existing designated sites and development of active travel projects within the limitations of the Development Plan. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will play a key role in identifying existing and proposed new green networks and, where appropriate, consider enhancement and implementation opportunities, including through new development. SDP images show indicative locations only.
37	Walking/Active Travel Opportunities	Aberdeenshire Council , SDPA, SNH, private land owners	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with partners to explore opportunities for enhanced walking and active travel through the Aberdeen - Huntly Strategic Growth Area. Expectations must be realistic given the distances between settlements and the cost of maintaining such trails. The Aberdeenshire Outdoor Access Strategy 2018-2021 will consider core paths in this area. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will continue to identify opportunities at a settlement level.
38	Improved Cross Boundary Connections for Active Travel/Green Networks	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans, SDPA	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans explore opportunities to develop improved cross boundary active travel connections and green networks (and synergies of the two). Connections and networks may be achieved through the use of River Corridors, existing or future green networks (greenbelt) and existing or planned development within the limitation of the development plan. Where possible improved connections should seek to enhance existing green networks. SDP images show indicative locations only.

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Strategic Growth Area - Aberdeen to Laurencekirk				
39	Electricity Transmission enhancements within this corridor covered under 'Our Connections' below.	Listed below under Our Connections	Listed below under Our Connections	Listed below under Our Connections
40	Possible New Rail Stations at Aberdeen South and Newtonhill	Nestrans, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire Council , Transport Scotland, SDPA, Private Developers	Short-term. Ongoing	Partners will undertake a study to explore the potential for an enhanced local rail service. This will start when there is greater clarity about the nature and timing of the improvements to the railway north and south of Aberdeen (expected 2019-2020) and should come under the umbrella of the City Region Deal. The SDPA will continue to engage with partners on this project and advise on the scale and location of future development. This will help to inform the review of the Regional Transport Strategy.
41	A90 Improvements	Transport Scotland, Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council, Private Developers,	Short-term delivery at Laurencekirk. Other improvements yet to be identified (Medium to Long-term). Ongoing	The SDPA will work with Transport Scotland, Nestrans and Aberdeenshire Council to consider what improvements can be made to the A90 South. Principal junctions are to be assessed and rationalised. The A90 is a National Route and of key regional importance (reflected in the RTS). The Laurencekirk grade separated junction, along with other route actions, will provide journey time and safety improvements. The preferred option for Laurencekirk will be consulted on in Summer 2018, and draft orders published 2019.
42	Rail Service Enhancements Aberdeen to Central Belt	Transport Scotland, Nestrans, Scotrail, Network Rail	Medium-term. Ongoing. (delivery 2026/27)	The SDPA will work with Nestrans continue to promote better connections between the City Region and the Central belt. Transport Scotland are currently studying the options. £200million of funding, along side City Region Deal, to be spent by 2026/27 for journey time improvements Aberdeen to Central Belt
43	Electrification of the East Coast Main Railway Line	Transport Scotland, Network Rail , Scot Rail, Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with Nestrans will continue to promote the electrification of the East Coast Main Line from Aberdeen to Dundee. Bi-fuel trains are currently being procured to ensure the continued running of intercity services to London.
44	Green Network Opportunities/Blue Green Corridor	Aberdeenshire Council , SDPA	Long-term	The SDPA and Aberdeenshire Council will explore opportunities for green networks in the Aberdeen to Laurencekirk Strategic Growth Area. Opportunities may be use of river corridors and existing designated sites and development of active travel projects within the limitations of the Development Plan. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will play a key role in identifying existing and proposed new green networks and, where appropriate, consider enhancement and implementation opportunities, including through new development. SDP images show indicative locations only.
45	Walking/Active Travel Opportunities/Coastal Trail	Aberdeenshire Council , SDPA, SNH, private land owners	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with partners to explore opportunities for enhanced walking, active travel and coastal trails through the Aberdeen - Laurencekirk Strategic Growth Area. Expectations must be realistic given the distances between settlements and the cost of maintaining such trails. The Aberdeenshire Outdoor Access Strategy 2018-2021 will consider core paths in this area. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will continue to identify opportunities at a settlement level. SDP images show indicative locations only.
46	Improved Cross Boundary Connections for Active Travel/Green Networks	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans, SDPA	Long-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans explore opportunities to develop improved cross boundary active travel connections and green networks (and synergies of the two). Connections and networks may be achieved through the use of River Corridors, existing or future green networks (greenbelt) and existing or planned development within the limitation of the development plan. Where possible improved connections should seek to enhance existing green networks. SDP images show indicative locations only.
Local Growth and Diversification Areas				
47	Encourage Appropriate Levels of New Development in Local Growth and Diversification Areas	Aberdeenshire Council	Medium-term. Ongoing	Progress will be monitored and reviewed through next SDP. The LDP, Development Management decisions as well as the Aberdeenshire Council economic development function all have a role to play.
48	Increase Tree Coverage	Aberdeenshire Council, Forestry Commission	Long-term. Ongoing.	The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan should progress the Forestry and Woodlands Strategy, identifying areas where multi-purpose woodlands can contribute to green networks and landscape enhancement (i.e. urban edge locations) where they might facilitate the accommodation of development and consider where appropriate through the masterplanning process. Progress should aim towards increasing average woodland cover to 21% in line with Scottish Government targets.

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Regeneration Priority Areas				
49	Aberdeenshire Regeneration Strategy	Aberdeenshire Council , SDPA	Long-term. Ongoing	In March 2016, Aberdeenshire Council approved a new regeneration strategy: "From Strategy to Action: Developing Excellence in our North Coast Communities" which focuses on the four northern towns of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Services have established a Development Delivery Team to support the areas. Action Plans, development partnerships and regeneration officers are in place. The SDPA will continue to support regeneration areas along the north coast. Delivery of development will be monitored through the review of the next SDP.
50	Improvements to the A90 (North of Ellon), A947 and A952	Aberdeenshire Council , Transport Scotland, Nestrans	Medium-term. Ongoing	The SDPA will work with Aberdeenshire Council, Transport Scotland and Nestrans to explore route actions to provide journey time and safety improvements. Continued implementation of Route Action Study for the A947. Nestrans to consider the initiation of a similar study for the A952.
Our Communities				
51	To make sure that new development meets the needs of the whole community, both now and in the future, and makes the City Region a more attractive and sustainable place for residents and businesses to remain, grow and relocate to.	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Long-term. Ongoing.	Local Development Plans will ensure that the required policies are in place to ensure new development increases the range, quality and design of new development and ensures the most efficient use of land through appropriate densities and a mix of types and sizes of new homes.
52	Aberdeen Brownfield Urban Capacity	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Ongoing 2018/2019	Aberdeen City Council will produce and updated Brownfield Capacity Study in 2018/2019 to inform the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan.
53	Housing Needs and Demand Assessment 3	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Short-term.	The SDPA will work jointly with Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council to undertaken a Housing Need and Demand Assessment to inform the next set of Local Housing Strategies and any future SDP. This may commence in 2021/2022. The SDPA will monitor delivery trends through future Housing Land Audits. The timing of the next HNDA will be based on the availability of data. It is possible that the development of the next HNDA may need to be brought forward if it is needed to inform the evidence base of NPF 4.
54	Housing Land	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Ongoing	Local Development Plans are directed to identify land for housing up to 2032 in accordance with the SDP. Strategic Reserve Land for Housing can be identified if either Council chooses to do so. Land for housing will be protected through the Local Development Plans and the development management process.
55	Housing Land Audits	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Ongoing / Short-term. Annual Reporting in June each year	Housing Land Audit for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire will continue to be reported to the SDPA Annually. The Audit reports housing land available for development, and maintains a forward view of the rate at which housing is likely to be developed over the next 5-10 years. the Audit also considers the land supply position and uses the SDP Housing Supply Target to assess the adequacy of the housing land supply.
56	Strategic Reserve Land for Housing	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Long-term.	Housing Land Audits and Local Development Plan Monitoring Statements will inform any decisions about the future release of safeguarded land.
57	Affordable Housing	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, RSLs, Scottish Government, SDPA	Short-term. Ongoing	The SDPA and members of the HNDA project steering group will work with the Scottish Government to continue maximise the grant funding for affordable housing. It is important that affordable housing is able to be provided in a timely way within new development. This requires appropriate grant funding to be available to the Councils and RSLs.
Our Economy				
58	Sustainable Tourism	Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, SDPA	Short-Medium term. Ongoing	Local Development Plans and development management decision making, when consistent with relevant policies, should encourage and support the provision of a diverse range of sustainable tourism facilities. The two Councils should work with the tourism industry to promote sustainable tourism outcomes.

No.	Action	Partners <i>(Lead indicated in bold)</i>	Timescale for Action / Delivery (Short-term less than years, Medium-term 5-10 years, Long-term 10 years plus)	Details of Action / Notes on Progress
59	Work with schools, colleges and universities to increase their contribution to the local economy	Learning and Skills Partnership, Skills Development Scotland, Nescol, University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Ongoing	Progress in delivery of this objective will be monitored and reviewed through next SDP. While these activities can take a variety of forms, from expansion plans to provision for spin-off enterprises, the SDPA will work with constituent Councils to identify appropriate measures on progress. Issues such as developing the young workforce and improving employability in general should be considered.
60	Employment Land	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Ongoing	Local Development Plans are directed to identify land for employment in accordance with the SDP. Both LDPs currently identify employment land for the period to 2026. Strategic Reserve Land for Employment must also be allocated. Land for Employment will be protected through the Local Development Plans and the development management process. Protection through local development plans and the development management process.
61	Strategic Reserve Land for Employment	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Long-term.	Employment Land Audits and Local Development Plan Monitoring Statements will inform any decisions about the future release of safeguarded land. The SDP allows safeguarded land for employment to be realised in certain circumstances.
62	Employment Land Audit	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Short-term. Annual Reporting September	Report Employment Land Audit to the SDPA Annually. Annual reporting of two key information sources on land availability for development. Housing and employment land audits as well as the monitoring statements prepared for the two local development plans will inform any decisions about the release of safeguarded land. However, the generous supply provided by the plan should mean that this is not required.
Our Resources				
63	Moving Towards Carbon Neutral Development	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Long-term.	The SDP promotes a gradual move towards buildings which are carbon neutral developments through the Local Development Plans. Building Regulations also have an important role to play in moving towards carbon neutral development.
64	Water Quality and Contribution to Water Framework Directive Objectives.	SEPA, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Water.	Long-term. Ongoing monitoring carried out by SEPA regarding overall river quality and progress towards WFD targets.	The Water Framework Directive target for all rivers to achieve 'good' quality status by 2027 is supported by the SDP. Local Development Plan site allocations should identify buffers to river margins and planning proposals should include surface water management. This may include a requirement for Environmental Management Plans, especially on larger sites near sensitive waterbodies. The next Local Development Plans are anticipated to come into affect by 2022 at which stage the Platinum Sustainability Standard for all new development should be the minimum standard. Abstraction of drinking water from rivers is monitored by Scottish Water, under licence from SEPA who control and manage all licences for abstractions. The SDPA will work with Scottish Water and SEPA to consider potential longer-term constraints and future development options to inform the next review of the SDP.
65	Alternative Low Carbon Fuel Sources for Transport	Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Transport Scotland, SDPA	Long-term. Ongoing	Nestrans, Transport Scotland and the two Councils should enable the provision of infrastructure that supports the take up of alternative fuels for transport, including the provision of electric vehicle charging points and development of a Regional Hydrogen Network. A number of public Electric Vehicle charging points are already available, with more due to be provided.
66	Increase and Diversify Renewable Energy Generation	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SNH	Long-term. Ongoing	Local Development Plans and the development management process, when consistent with other environmental policies, should encourage and support the provision of a diverse range of renewable energy sources for electricity, heat and transport uses. Where development of renewable technologies is widespread, as with onshore wind, a key coordinating action in LDP spatial frameworks should be updated to take account of pressures, such as landscape capacity, and opportunities. Local Development Plans will continue to produce Spatial Frameworks for Onshore Wind.
67	Reduce Flooding and Improve Flood Resilience and Adaption	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA, SEPA, Scottish Water	Long-term. Ongoing	The SDPA will facilitate joint working between the two Councils to better inform flood protection projects. Local Development Plans will consider the SDP SFRA and the North East Local Plan District Local Flood Risk Management Plan. Local Development Plans will undertake their own SFRA during the Main Issues Report and Preferred Site Assessment process. Consideration must be given to Potentially Vulnerable Areas, SEPA Flooding Maps and the River Basin Management Plans when considering Local Development Plan allocations and during the development management process. Joint working between the SDPA and the two Council Flood Risk Management and Local Development Plan Policy Teams will continue. Consideration is to be given for the scope for managed realignment of parts of the coast to allow naturally for future sea level rising processes.
68	Manage Waste and Integrate with the Circular Economy	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SEPA	Short-term. Ongoing	The SDPA will monitor progress in the delivery of the Energy from Waste facility in Aberdeen City, and respond positively to other proposals that will support the prospects of the circular economy either through Local Development Plan allocations or development management decisions. Both Councils should consider the need for time extensions for operational landfill sites in order to maintain landfill capacity available for necessary disposals, reflecting changing regulatory requirements at the time and the effects of proposals on nearby communities. All partners should take account of construction and demolition waste along with domestic and industrial waste generated throughout the life of the development in terms of the need and design of waste management proposals. Partners should work together (wherever possible) to put in place appropriate residual waste management solutions.

No.	Action	Partners <i>(Lead indicated in bold)</i>	Timescale for Action / Delivery (Short-term less than years, Medium-term 5-10 years, Long-term 10 years plus)	Details of Action / Notes on Progress
69	Protect and Improve Water Quality of the River Dee	SEPA, SNH, Scottish Water, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA,	Long-term. Ongoing.	All partners have obligations under the Water Framework Directives and Birds and Habitats Directives. Key national agencies have responsibilities for monitoring to meet these Directives. The SDPA will work with key partners to gain a better understanding of the likely medium to long-term effects of climate change on the River Dee and any adaptation measures that may be needed in order to meet Directive obligations. The Local Development Plans will promote water saving technologies to be employed in new developments (aiming towards Platinum Standard) and develop contingencies as and when required. This work should build on current partnership working that has established current availability to meet water quality and availability, along with Agencies responsible for monitoring EU environmental objectives to identify potential initiatives / infrastructure in support of long-term development needs. This work will inform the next Strategic Development Plan. The SDPA will work with partners on the licensing of water abstraction from the River Dee so that the interests of this Special Area of Conservation are fully considered.
70	Natural and Historic Environments	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, SDPA	Short-term. Ongoing	the SDPA will monitor development pressures on designated sites with partners and review position at next SDP review or sooner if unexpected pressures emerge. All partners will continue to protect and, where appropriate, enhance the area's natural and historic environments.
71	Habitats Regulations Appraisals	Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Developers	Short-term. Ongoing	The HRA of the SDP must ascertain that the SDP will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura site in terms of its nature conservation objectives. If any negative effects remain after mitigation has been identified then other options need to be examined to ensure that these would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site. All developments that might adversely affect a Natura 2000 site should be subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisals either through the Local Development Plan process and/or in support of planning applications to demonstrate no adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. The HRA of the SDP highlights potential pressures and where projects might trigger an HRA at project stage.
72	Cairngorms National Park	Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority, SNH, Developers	Short-term. Ongoing	Local Development Plans and development management decisions should carefully assess and consider any impacts on the National Park when promoting proposals or considering planning applications. Some projects, although located out with the National Park, may have significant implications within the Park. Such projects will require close liaison with the Cairngorms National Park Authority.
73	River Basin Management Planning	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Ongoing.	The SDPA will work with SEPA to progress River Basin Management Planning in the short-term to inform next review of the SDP and Local Development Plans. A particular focus should be how River Basin Management Planning can consider extreme weather and climate events/effects and how this can inform the longer-term development strategy while meeting Water Framework (and Birds and Habitat directives) Directive Objectives.
74	Green Belt	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Short-term. Ongoing.	Local Development Plans will continue to identify the green belt around Aberdeen. This will enable positive green belt opportunities and synergies with active travel and green networks.
75	Land Use Strategy	Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Government, Aberdeen City Council, SDPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission, Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Short-term. Ongoing.	Local Development Plans and development management decisions should support progressive actions that promote integration of land-use activities in relation to ecosystem services, natural capital, forestry and agriculture. These decisions contribute to landscape, nature conservation and water quality and management but are beyond the statutory planning system, but also play a role in the quality of our built and natural environment. The SDPA will keep under review the contribution of the SDP to this activity.
Our Connections				
76	Local Rail Service Improvements	Nestrans, SDPA, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Transport Scotland	Short-Medium-Long-term	The SDPA will support the partners in production of a study to look at the potential for (and viability of) improved local rail services, including enhanced cross-city services from December 2019. This will investigate the potential to improve connectivity by rail for local journeys, including the possibility of new service and stopping patterns. New stations to the north and south of Aberdeen will be strategic long term projects. New line options may form part of this study. Any such study should result from an appraisal in line with the principles of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG)
77	Core Path Plans	Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Ongoing.	Aberdeen City Council plan to refresh the Core Path Plan in 2018- 2019. The Plan will be kept under review taking account integration with new development. Aberdeenshire Council Outdoor Access Strategy 2018 - 2021 expected to be approved by Aberdeenshire Council before end of 2018.
78	Transport Interventions to Accommodate the Cumulative Impacts of Growth	Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA, Transport Scotland, SNH	Long-term. Ongoing	The SDPA will work with partners to further define future transport demand management and interventions necessary to mitigate potential impacts of the SDP. Interventions could be funded or partially funded by developer obligations, or a second City Region Deal. Work on the schemes will progress in a phased way taking account of the availability of funds to pay for schemes. The River Dee link will take the longest to plan and deliver so early work is progressing on this scheme.

No.	Action	Partners <i>(Lead indicated in bold)</i>	Timescale for Action / Delivery (Short-term less than years, Medium-term 5-10 years, Long-term 10 years plus)	Details of Action / Notes on Progress
79	Offshore Electricity Transmission HVDC links to: (1) North of England; and (2) Norway NorthConnect.	(1) SHET , Scottish Power Energy Networks and National Grid. SHET also will be leading on the works at Peterhead. (2) NorthConnect and SHET (SHET providing the AC connection to the Transmission Network via the new Peterhead 400kV GIS Substation), Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, SDPA, JNCC, SEPA, SNH, HSE	Short and medium-term. North of England HVDC currently scheduled for completion in 2027. NorthConnect scheduled for completion by 2022.	Although these projects are nationally important their delivery will require to meet environmental objectives of this SDP along with communities where they are located and meeting these objectives as well as delivery of the projects will be monitored. (1) Works to North of England are being led by SHET, Scottish Power Energy Networks and National Grid. SHET will be leading on the works within our region e.g. Peterhead. (2) Works for the HVDC Link to Norway are being led by NorthConnect, SHET are providing the AC connection to the Transmission Network via the new Peterhead 400kV GIS Substation. landfall at coast. Northconnect have identified that the underground cables are likely to landfall at Long Haven Bay, and connect to a converter station at Fourfields near Boddam, Peterhead, where the electricity will be converted from High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) to High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC). An HVAC cable will connect the converter station to the National Grid network at a new Peterhead substation.
80	Underground Electricity Cable to serve Moray Offshore (East and West) Wind Farm	Moray Offshore Renewables Ltd lead with underground cabling. SHET lead with New Deer Substation (two areas - one for Moray Offshore East Windfarm and one for SHET) to facilitate connection to the Transmission Network.	Short-term. New Deer Substation (SHET) to be complete by 2020.	The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will enable progress of this project in line with the economic, social and environmental objectives of the SDP. Local Development Plans will be mindful of the need to enable progress of project as required. This project includes National Grid Transmission from Moray Firth East Offshore Wind Farm. Cable landfall near Inverboyndie and an underground cable to new substation at New Deer is completed. Onshore cable landfall will be west of Portsoy, progressing with connections through Moray to Blackhilllock.
81	Enhanced High Voltage Energy Transmission Upgrade (overhead line upgrade) from Kintore, via Fetteresso towards Central Scotland.	SHET , Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Short-term. NPF 3 / National Infrastructure and programmed for 2020 onwards.	Local Development Plans will be mindful of the need to enable progress of project in line with the economic, social and environmental objectives of this SDP. Upgrading of the North-East and East Coast electricity transmission lines traverses the City Region from Kintore substation via Fetteresso substation and southwards towards Central Scotland. There will be connection to the new Rothienorman substation.
82	New Substations at Rothienorman and New Deer.	SHET , Aberdeenshire Council, SDPA	Short-term. Rothienorman programmed for completion by 2021: and New Deer Substation to be complete by 2020.	Local Development Plans will be mindful of the need to enable progress of this project in line with the economic, social and environmental objectives of this SDP.
Our Future - How This Plan Can Make a Difference				
83	Monitoring of Strategic Development Plan	SDPA	Medium-term.	Monitoring Statement is required once every five years to accompany the Main Issues Report. The Monitoring statement will include the monitoring of factors which are outwith the control of the Councils, but which may impact on the delivery of the SDP. Monitoring will also be undertaken through the SDPA Bulletin.
84	Collaborative Regional Working	SDPA, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council	Short-term. Ongoing	Partners will work together to ensure consistency between the SDP and the Local Development Plans, City Region Deal, Regional Transport Strategy, Regional Economic Strategy, Local Transport Strategies, Local Housing Strategies, North East Local Plan District Flood Risk Management (2016 to 2022), development activity for Regional Marine Plans and regeneration frameworks along with other frameworks as appropriate and necessary. Involvement will vary between plans and strategies but will include common evidence bases. This process will facilitate the future review of the SDP. Both Councils have Future infrastructure Requirements for Services (FIRS) groups which seek to identify and facilitate the delivery of new infrastructure required as a result of new development and the SDPA will continue to take part in these groups.
85	Action Programme	SDPA and all identified lead partners	Short-term. Ongoing	The SDPA will publish the approved Action Programme within 3 months of the SDP 2020 being approved. The SDPA will update the Action Programme annually and re-publish at least every two years. National Planning Framework actions will be monitored at the same time.