

A Guide to the Proposed Strategic Development Plan

What is the Strategic Development Plan (SDP)?

Strategic Development Plans are prepared for Scotland's four largest city-regions: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) are responsible for the production of the SDP which sets out priorities for the long-term development of the region, and focuses on key issues such as transport, economy, retail, housing and greenspace. SDPs are visionary documents which set out a long-term strategy (up to 20 years), and inform the preparation of Local Development Plans by the relevant local authorities (in this case Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council).

The Main Issues Report

The current Strategic Development Plan for Aberdeen City and Shire was approved in March 2014, and we are currently in the process of reviewing this Plan to ensure it is kept up to date. A **Main Issues Report** was published in Spring 2018 which described and invited discussion on the issues the next SDP would need to address. The Report included 12 Main Issues and 16 Questions for comment. Just under 80 representations were made to the Main Issues Report.

The Proposed Plan

The comments we received in response to the Main Issues Report, along with all previous work, helped us to prepare a Proposed Plan. The SDPA agreed the final content of the Proposed Plan in August 2018, and this decision was ratified by both Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council in September 2018. The Proposed Plan contains the SDPA's firm view on what should be included in the final approved Strategic Development Plan. We have also published a Proposed Action Programme setting out what needs to happen to make the Plan work. A Strategic Environmental Assessment has also been carried out.

Examination in Public

We will consider all the representations received to the Proposed Plan and we will prepare a summary of unresolved issues before submitting the Plan to Scottish Ministers for Examination in Public. Scottish Ministers will appoint a person (usually called a Reporter) to examine the Proposed Plan. The Reporter will then ask the SDPA to supply the summary of unresolved issues, copies of unresolved representations and any other supporting documents or productions.

After this, there is no opportunity for anyone who has made representations, or for the SDPA, to submit any additional material to the Examination unless asked to do so by the Reporter. As such, the original representation is potentially your only opportunity to raise an issue to be examined.

The Reporter will decide what form the Examination will take. Most issues are expected to be handled without the need for further information, but where additional evidence is requested, this will normally be in written form. Where a face-to-face meeting is required, this will normally take the form of a discussion with questions led by the Reporter (this is usually called a Hearing). Only in exceptional circumstances will a formal Inquiry be necessary to test information through cross-examination. If the Reporter invites you to participate in a Hearing or Inquiry you may be asked to supply a further written statement in advance.

Representations on the Proposed Action Programme and Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report or any of the other supporting documents are not dealt with at the Examination. Instead, the SDPA must consider these representations when finalising the documents after the Examination.

How do I respond?

The Proposed Plan, Proposed Action Programme and Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report, and all associated supporting documents, are available from website: <http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk/CurrentWork/CurrentConsultations.aspx>

They are also available to view at Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council public libraries and planning offices.

Representations should be concise, generally no more than 2,000 words (plus limited supporting documents). Representations should fully explain the issues you wish to be considered and the changes you would like to see. There is unlikely to be an opportunity to expand on these comments at a later stage. We have provided a form which you can use to make your comments.

Responses must be received by midnight Monday 17 December 2018

Responses should be sent either:

By post:

Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB15 5GB; or

By email:

team@aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk

For further information please contact the Strategic Development Plan Team on 01467 539734 or team@aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk

Approving the Plan

After completing the Examination, the Reporter will present his or her conclusions and recommendations to Scottish Ministers. The conclusions and recommendations will be published and notification sent to everyone who submitted an unresolved representation.

Scottish Ministers may then choose to either approve the Propose Plan (in whole or in part, and with or without any modifications) or reject it.

For more information about the Development Planning System, particularly relating to Strategic Development Plans and the Examination of these Plans, please refer to:

- Circular 6/2013 - Development Planning <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/12/9924>
- Development Plan Examinations <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/Appeals/howwework/proceduresindpe/dperepresentationguidancenote>



Independent, free and impartial advice about the planning system can be obtained from Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS).

0300 323 7602 or office@pas.org.uk
www.pas.org.uk