

ABERDEEN
CITY AND
SHIRE

| *a brighter
outlook*



Structure Plan:
Getting involved

Getting involved in the new structure plan for Aberdeen City and Shire

The planning system affects your everyday life. Now is the time to make your voice heard about the future of your community and environment.

This leaflet gives you information about the planning system, in particular how we are developing our new structure plan. It also tells you how and when you can get involved in preparing the new structure plan for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.



What is the purpose of the planning system?



The planning system provides guidance on how we develop and use land in the future. It aims to make sure that changes in the way we use land are appropriate and in the long-term interests of society and the environment. The goal of the planning system in Scotland is to provide a prosperous and fair Scotland, with a strong economy and a good environment for everybody to live in.

What is a development plan?

Our development plan contains our plans for developing and using land. It addresses a wide range of issues such as housing, shopping, industry, transport and the environment.

The development plan guides other people's plans and investment strategies, and is used to assess planning applications. It has the following two parts.

- The structure plan
- The local plan



How important are development plans?

Our policies in the development plan affect your everyday life. Getting involved in preparing the plan gives you a say in the future of your community and environment. Your opinions at this stage can be more effective than trying to influence decisions on planning applications. This is because planning applications are normally decided in line with the development plan.

What is a structure plan?

Our new structure plan will set a long-term (20 years or more) vision for how we will change the way we use land in the area. It will include a written statement and a map. It will not identify sites - the local plan does that. We must prepare local plans in line with the structure plan. Structure plans do not have detailed policies, but they broadly identify how much development should happen and where it should take place.

We (Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council) must prepare a joint structure plan. Scottish Ministers approved the current structure plan in December 2001. However, the structure plan now needs to be replaced, a process which started in February 2007. We hope that Scottish Ministers will approve the new plan in late 2008 or early 2009.

How can I get involved?

We are keen to involve the public, as well as community groups and other groups with an interest in preparing the next structure plan. There are four main stages when you can get involved in preparing the plan.



Issues report

We published an issues report in February 2007 which identifies the issues the structure plan could cover. The report asks you to tell us about any other issues you think we should include in the plan. You can also make comments about the issues we have already identified (including possible ways we could deal with them).

Draft structure plan

We expect to publish the draft structure plan in January 2008. The draft structure plan will be influenced by the responses we received about the issues report. You will have the opportunity to comment on the plan or object to it at that stage.

Final structure plan

When we have agreed a final plan (expected in June 2008), we will send it to the Scottish Ministers to approve. The final structure plan will take into account the responses to the draft structure plan. You will have an opportunity to object to the plan. Scottish Ministers will decide how to deal with the objections they receive.

Changes to the final plan

You will be able to object to any changes the Scottish Ministers suggest in response to objections they received about the final plans. We think this will happen by early 2009.

Community groups, and other groups with an interest in the structure plan, can get involved at other stages as well as these formal stages, particularly during the first half of 2007. This will follow on from meetings which took place during 2006.

We have published the following four documents alongside this leaflet.

A formal press notice and advert - announcing that we are starting to prepare the structure plan

A development plan scheme - setting out how we intend to prepare the plan and what opportunities there are for you to get involved and influence it

An issues report - giving you the opportunity to tell us the issues you think the plan should deal with and how this should be done

A report of survey - containing background information on the area, which will influence the plan



The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006



Under new planning laws (which have not yet come into force), we must replace structure plans with strategic development plans. Strategic development plans will be more focused and deal only with the issues we need to work together on.

Although we have started to prepare a structure plan, we expect that new laws will allow the structure plan to be approved as a strategic development plan.

Crystal
Mark
14578

Clarity approved by
Plain English Campaign



If you need help reading this document (for example if you need it in a different format or in another language), please phone us on 01224 523542.

More information

If you need more information about the current structure plan or about preparing the new plan, please contact either of the following.



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COUNCIL



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Phone: 01224 664221

Fax: 01224 664679

Website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Website for the current structure plan: www.nest-uk.net

Website for the new structure plan: www.acssp.net

Email for the new structure plan: team@acssp.net

The following links provide useful information about the planning system.

Scottish Executive

www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/planning

Planning Aid Scotland

www.planningaidscotland.org.uk

Royal Town Planning Institute

www.rtpi.org.uk



Printed on recycled paper

February 2007