

ABER DEEN SHIRE

Local Development Plan
2028-2038



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1 Introduction

This Development Plan Scheme (the DPS) has been prepared in order to share information on the preparation of the next Local Development Plan, which is programmed to be adopted in 2028. The local development plan is used in the determination of planning applications, and it zones land for development (known as allocations) or protects it for specific uses.

The Scottish Government requires Aberdeenshire Council to prepare and publish this DPS at least once a year.

The next Local Development Plan will be different plan to the one adopted in January 2023, prepared in a different way and with different stages that it will have to pass through. These changes have been as a result of the Scottish Government reforms to the planning system as outlined in the ‘transforming planning in practice’ section.

This DPS is divided into three sections. Firstly, it makes clear what the Development Plan is in Aberdeenshire.

Secondly, it sets out the draft programme for the Local Development Plan 2028, including key stages that will be met.

Finally, in a formal “Participation Statement”, it explains how we undertake consultation with individuals, communities and other stakeholders in the production of the plan.

2 The existing Development Plan

In Aberdeenshire, the Development Plan is made up of three documents. These are the “National Planning Framework“, the “Local Development Plan” and “Supplementary Guidance”.

National Planning Framework 4

On the 13 February 2023, the Scottish Government published the National Planning Framework 4 and it is now part of the development plan for Aberdeenshire. It provides a national perspective on development, and sets out national planning policies, which are used in the determination of planning applications. The national spatial strategy will support the delivery of sustainable places, liveable places and productive places. It is based on six spatial principles, which councils are expected to deliver:

- **Just transition.** Empowering people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.
- **Conserving and recycling assets.** Making productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.
- **Local living.** Supporting local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.
- **Compact urban growth.** Limiting urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- **Rebalanced development.** Targeting development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.
- **Rural revitalisation.** Encouraging sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.

(From National Planning Framework 4, page 4)

For proposals where a Local Development Plan disagrees with the National Planning Framework then the most recent plan will be used to make the decision.

The Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Strategic Development Plan 2020 was replaced by the National Planning Framework 4 and is no longer part of the Development Plan.

The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023

On 13 January 2023 Aberdeenshire Council adopted the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023, following a public examination conducted by the Scottish Government.

This was the third Local Development plan to be produced by Aberdeenshire Council and it replaced the previous plan, published in 2017.

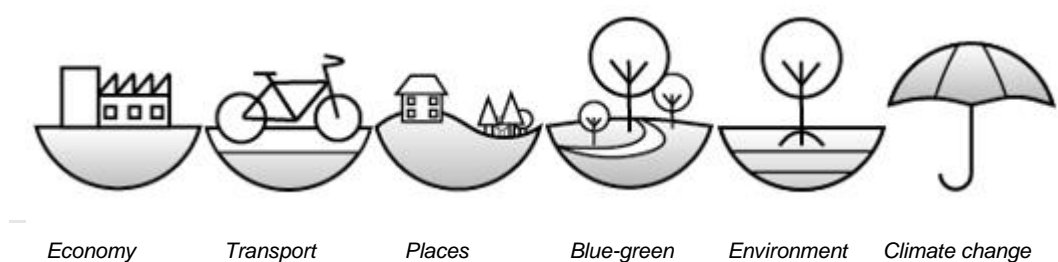
This plan covers the whole of Aberdeenshire, except that part within the Cairngorms National Park. They have their own Local Development Plan.



The policies and land use designations within the Local Development Plan will deliver 6 strategic outcomes during the Plan period::

- *increasing and diversifying the economy,*
- *making efficient use of the transport system,*
- *promoting high quality places,*
- *promoting green-blue networks,*
- *protecting and improving on what is best in our environment, and*
- *addressing the issues of climate change.*

Figure 1 The vision of the Local Development Plan 2022



The Local Development Plan is supported by a Delivery Programme that supports and coordinates the implementation of specific land use proposals, which are set out in an Aberdeenshire-wide map, known as a spatial strategy. This spatial strategy is designed to deliver an additional 5,281 homes and 149 ha. of land for business over the next ten years. In addition to these figures, there remains allocated a further 5,108 homes and 113 ha. of business land, which are either constrained and / or are unlikely to be delivered until after 2032. These figures show a sufficient supply of land for new housing and business to the end of 2032. By 2027 there may be dependency on sites in the Local Development Plan that are not yet “shovel ready” to maintain housing land supply until the adoption of the next plan.

Supplementary Guidance

Supplementary guidance is the name given to policy introduced after the adoption of the Local Development Plan. It is being phased out through the enactment of the Planning (Scotland) 2019 and will not feature in the next Local Development Plan.

One piece of further policy, Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations and Affordable Housing, will support the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023. This will be prepared and submitted to Scottish Ministers by December 2023.

Planning Advice has also been prepared to help people understand specific policies and deliver the Local Development Plan. This sets out the information that may be required to demonstrate that the terms of the policies have been met for the benefit of developers and communities.

3 Transforming Planning in Practice

The passing by the Scottish Parliament of the [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) (the Act) marks a key step change in the way that development planning will be conducted in Scotland. It confirms the National Planning Framework is a part of the Development Plan and it re-writes many of the laws that govern the production of Local Development Plans. Part 2 of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Development Plans) is significantly changed.

Major changes that relate to development planning include:

- the requirement to prepare an “Evidence Report” to inform the new local development plan;
- the introduction of a “Gate check examination” to evaluate the information in the Evidence Report;
- a “Call for ideas” to inform the proposed local development plan; and
- an opportunity for the proposed Local Development Plan to be formally changed before its examination by Scottish Ministers.
- Main Issues Reports are no longer part of the plan making process.

Each of these stages is described in the 2019 Act.

A range of new supporting government regulations and guidance are to be published to enable implementation of the new planning laws. In December 2021, Scottish Ministers sought opinions on draft regulations and guidance relating to Local Development Plans, New regulations will come into force in May and publication of the guidance is imminent at the time of writing this DPS.

4 Stages of Plan Development

There are three stages to prepare the next Local development Plan:

1. **Data Collection**
 2. **Preparation of the Local Development Plan:**
 3. **Examination**
-

More detail on these elements is presented below.

Data Collection



Before preparing a local development plan, we will have to prepare an **Evidence Report** to set out Aberdeenshire Council's views on a range of matters. These include:

- the physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the area;
- the size, composition, health and distribution of the population;
- housing, healthcare and education needs, and
- infrastructure systems for the supply of water and energy.

The purpose of the Evidence Report is to improve the quality and effectiveness of the plan by making sure it is based on robust data for the area. It will inform what to plan for before the Proposed Local Development Plan looks at where development should take place. We need to engage with people with an interest in the topics on which we will be collecting information and allow everyone to comment on what we submit to the Gate Check Examination (see below).

Evidence will be collected on places. Wherever possible this will be done at a village or town scale. We are aware that for many of the topics that we will need to explore, data at such a small scale does not exist, is out-of-date, or is unreliable. Local Government Wards or even administrative areas may be the smallest geography that we can use. The Scottish Government is clear in their guidance that Planning Authorities should be making use of existing data rather than undertaking a lengthy and expensive process of collecting the latest information.

The Evidence Report is subjected to a "**Gate Check examination**". This is a formal process where there is independent assessment of whether the planning authority has the right information to prepare a Proposed Local Development Plan. An experienced planner (a "Reporter") from the Scottish Government Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will consider the evidence presented, any disputes either to what has been collected or what it might mean, and may ask Aberdeenshire Council to present additional information.



From the Evidence Report and the Gate Check examination we will be able to present a robust evidence base and an analysis of what this may mean to inform all later parts of the plan preparation process.



The Scottish Government has suggested that a "**Call for Ideas**" may be undertaken to inform the Proposed Plan. The Call for Ideas stage would invite everyone to propose ideas for any part of the plan, including policy or suggestions for development sites. What people submit at the Call for Ideas should support the conclusions drawn from the Evidence Report. If they do not, then there may be no justification for considering these ideas any further.

We would anticipate that any **Local Place Plans** (very local statements prepared by Community groups of where communities would like to see development take place and what should be protected) that communities wish to have incorporated in the Local Development Plan should be provided at this point. While Local Place Plans can be produced at any time their insertion into the Local Development Plan will be made easier if they are prepared for submission in late 2024. The Council would be able to do full strategic transport, equalities, environmental and flood risk assessments on all proposals during analysis of the ideas presented.

From all of this evidence it is then possible to proceed to the production of the Local Development Plan.

Preparation of the Proposed Local Development Plan

The Proposed Local Development Plan will set a framework of policy and land use to achieve the broad objectives set out in the Evidence Report. It would do this through the use of a “spatial strategy” that would identify places where significant change is required that the planning system can support. It is anticipated that there would be an emphasis on maps, site briefs, and masterplans within this document.



Sites specifically identified for new development will have to be confirmed as being free from constraints as far as possible, and shown to be deliverable by the developer in terms of practicality and economic feasibility. Undeveloped sites in the current Local Development Plan will be looked at again and may be removed if they no longer meet the necessary criteria in terms of deliverability or viability.

The next plan is likely to have minimal policy wording to reflect the new role of the National Planning Framework (the NPF4 has been designed to provide all the core rules needed to decide whether building proposals should get planning permission), and will only be included in the Local Development Plan if they add value or fill gaps within the national policies.

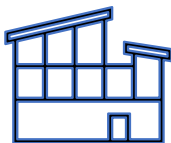


At this point Formal **Consultation** will take place on the Proposed Local Development Plan and, where appropriate, **negotiation** will take place to try to resolve disagreements or objections that people may have to the Proposed Plan. A **modified proposed Local Development Plan** will be agreed by Council for submission to Scottish Ministers.

There are still unanswered questions regarding how we will change the plan following the consultation on the draft plan in a fair and transparent manner, allowing all with an interest to make their views known. At this stage it is not yet known if a modified proposed Local Development Plan would have to be printed. We may have to do further public consultation before it is possible for Aberdeenshire Council to agree the plan. If such a route needs to be followed, it could delay the examination and, the adoption of the plan.

Examination

Scottish Ministers will then instruct their Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals to conduct a **Local Development Plan Examination** into the modified Proposed Local Development Plan. This examination will take between six and nine months to complete.



Aberdeenshire Council will then consider the **Report of the Examination** and decide whether to modify the plan in line with the findings from the Examination. That being the case the plan will be **adopted** to replace the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023.

5 Other work to support the Local Development Plan

In addition to the core work of preparing the Local Development there are five work streams that will be conducted in parallel.

The **Strategic Environmental Assessment** will be used to inform and assess the environmental and sustainability implications of the emerging plan and its proposals. Strategic Environmental Assessment is a separate process that by law requires its own consultation. We would intend to set

the information that we will need in order to do the assessment before the Gate Check Examination takes place, and draft the report as we consider the ideas presented to us in the Call For Ideas.

An assessment under the **Habitats Regulations** will ensure that internationally important wildlife sites are unharmed by the Local Development Plan proposals. This will be done as we consider the ideas presented to us.

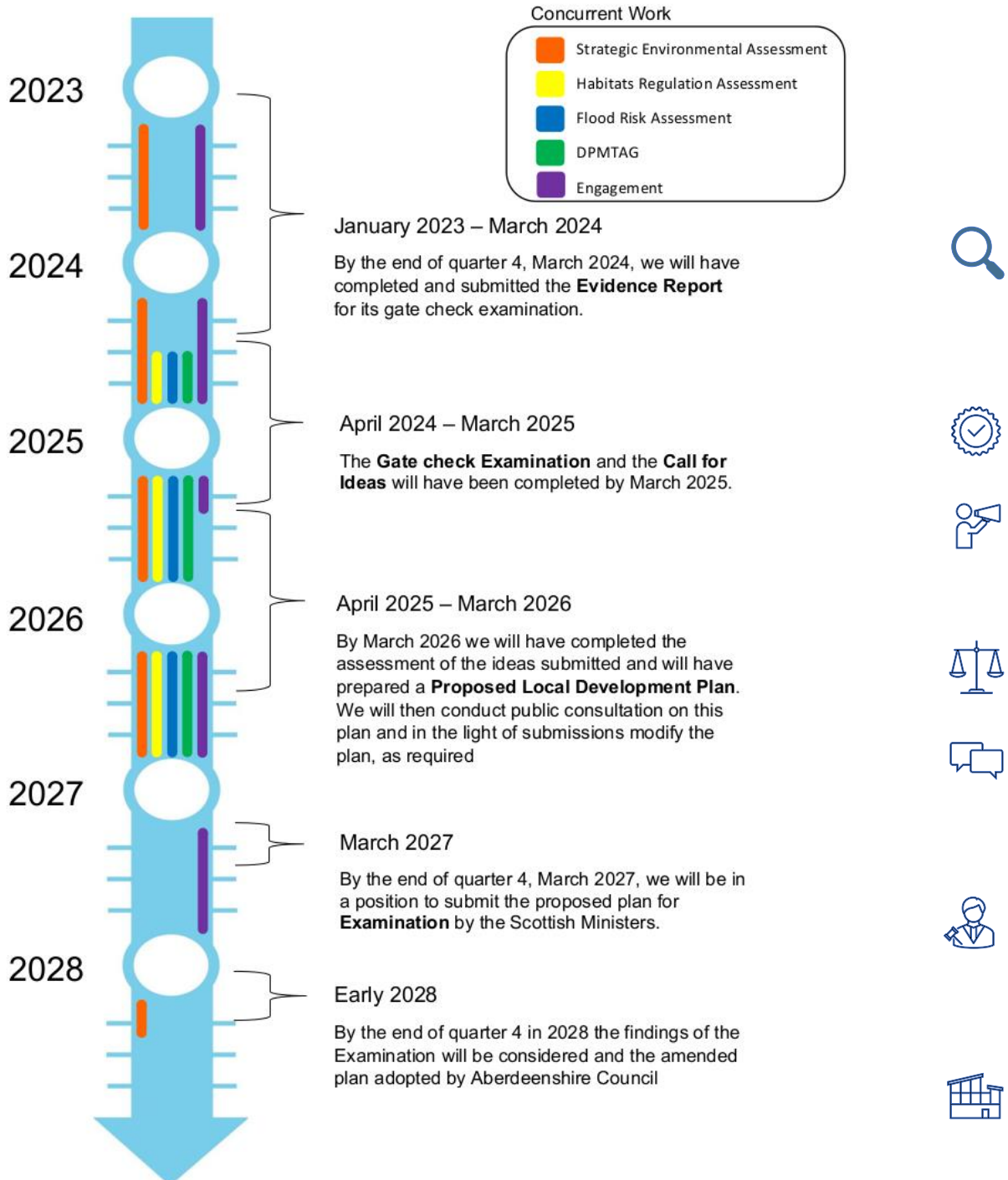
A **Transport Appraisal (DPMTAG)** will be undertaken to inform and assess impacts on the strategic transport network. Part of this work will be done as part of an “Infrastructure Audit” that we are required to present to the Gate Check examination.

A **Flood risk assessment** will be undertaken to inform and assess sites promoted for development against the risk of flooding. This will be done as we consider the ideas presented to us.

The **Delivery Programme** will be considered all the way through the plan preparation process. It is very important to achieve what we hope that the plan will do and support development proposals in the LDP. It will be prepared to provide a clear route for delivery of sites and proposals in the adopted plan by project managing the timing of the authority’s financial investment for the delivery of the plan, and any co-ordination with private or other funding needed for infrastructure.

6 The Timetable for The Local Development Plan 2028

The programme for the Local Development Plan 2028 spans a period of 5 years with a number of key milestones. Section 8 provides details of the Engagement processes that we will undertake.



7 Engagement processes

Details of the engagement process for each of the stages of the plan is shown in table 1. Detail of the engagement processes that will be used during each stage will be developed in subsequent Development Plan Schemes. Proposals for the Evidence Report are to be found in section 9 of this Report, and in the Participation statement at section 10.

Table 1 Outline of engagement activities for each stage of the plan making process (Please note that the indicative timescales for later years may be subject to review and this table will be updated as part of annual reporting of the DPS scheme)

Stage	Year	Engagement proposed	Outcome
Evidence Report	May 2023 to December 2023	Public Engagement on evidence prepared on the basis of topic papers and audited by a reference group. Disputes identified for reference to the Gate Check Examination (see section 8 Preparing the Evidence Report)	Agreed evidence on which to take forward the Call for Ideas. Identification of disputed information for consideration at the gate check examination
Gate Check Examination	Starts in May 2023. There is no prescribed length of time for the Gate Check examination	The Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will conduct the Examination of disputed topics only, and will invite parties to engage with them directly. This process is not managed by Aberdeenshire Council	The Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will conclude and endorse the Evidence Report, as modified by the Examination
Call for Ideas	March 20-24 to March 2025	The findings of the Evidence Report will be presented to Communities and other stakeholders with a request for proposals and “ideas” on how to resolve the land use planning issues identified. Support will be provided to communities and community groups to understand and respond to the issues presented, and to prepare Local Place Plans to confirm what land should be protected, developed or enhanced within their locality. The development industry will be encouraged to engage with Communities on “bids” that they would wish to take forward for inclusion in the plan	Aberdeenshire Council will subsequently evaluate and consider, in detail, the ideas presented and use this information as the basis for preparing the proposed plan.
Draft Development Plan	March 2026 to July 2026	The Draft Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan will be published and subject to public consultation. The Plan will be promoted and responses encouraged	From this process a set of formal objections to the Local Development plan will be collated.

Modification of the draft development Plan	August 2026 to March 2027	Objections to the Proposed Development plan will be assessed and negotiation will take place with objectors (and other affected parties) to make modifications to the Proposed Local Development Plan	From this process Aberdeenshire will be asked to approve an amended Proposed Local Development Plan. All unresolved objections will be collated for submission for public examination.
Examination	March 2027 to December 2027	The Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will conduct an examination of the Proposed Local Development Plan and will invite parties to engage with them directly. This process is not managed by Aberdeenshire Council	A report of Modifications proposed by the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals will be considered by Aberdeenshire Council. If these are modifications are acceptable this will be followed by adoption of the plan

8 Preparing the Evidence Report

Over the next 12 months Aberdeenshire Council will concentrate on working with partners and stakeholders to prepare the Evidence Report. Due to the uncertainty of future processes being adopted, it is wise at this time to concentrate only on how we will undertake this element, and how we will work over the next year. Future Development Plan Schemes will provide greater insight into work being undertaken that forthcoming year

In developing the Evidence Report, Aberdeenshire Council will prepare “topic papers” of the relevant and available evidence that we can find on the topics set out in Table 1. These topics have been identified from examination of National Planning Framework 4 and Part C of the draft [Guidance on Local Development Planning](#)¹ (December 2021). We will form short life “reference groups” to assist with the preparation and auditing of individual topic papers. Our objective will be that all evidence collected is appropriate, relevant, robust, and credible. Collection of new data will be avoided, where possible. Use will be made of the existing information that we have at our disposal. Each topic paper will also consider crossover effects with other topics. Each topic paper will make conclusions that the future Local Development Plan will need to address.

We will invite public comment on the individual topic papers through the Engage Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Hub – a ‘one-stop-shop’ for all the written engagement we are undertaking for the next Local Development Plan.

Within this engagement people will have opportunity to identify issues as specific formal “disputes” to us. We will ask the Reference Group to help us either resolve the dispute or, if this is not possible, confirm that it will be passed to the Gate-check Examination for consideration. Time has been included in the programme for the collation and approval by Aberdeenshire Council of the topic papers, and their conclusions, into the Evidence Report. This is likely to occur by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

Table 2 Topics to be considered in the Evidence report.

Topic Paper title	Anticipated period for public consultation ¹
01. Plan Outcomes	May 2023
02. Stakeholder Involvement	May 2023
03. Climate mitigation and adaptation	July 2023
04. Tackling the climate and nature crisis	July 2023
05. Biodiversity and tackling the nature crisis	August 2023
06. Design, Quality and Place	August 2023
07. Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods*	September 2023
08. Infrastructure First	October 2023
09. Quality Homes	June 2023
10. Sustainable Transport	June 2023
11. Heat and Cooling	October 2023
12. Flood Risk and Water Management	June 2023
13. Business and Industry	September 2023

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-development-planning-regulations-guidance-consultation-part-c-draft-guidance-local-development-planning/pages/4/#:~:text=Part%20C%20of%20the%20local%20development%20planning%20,to%20implement%20policies%20in%20NPF4.%20Supporting%20documents%20Introduction>

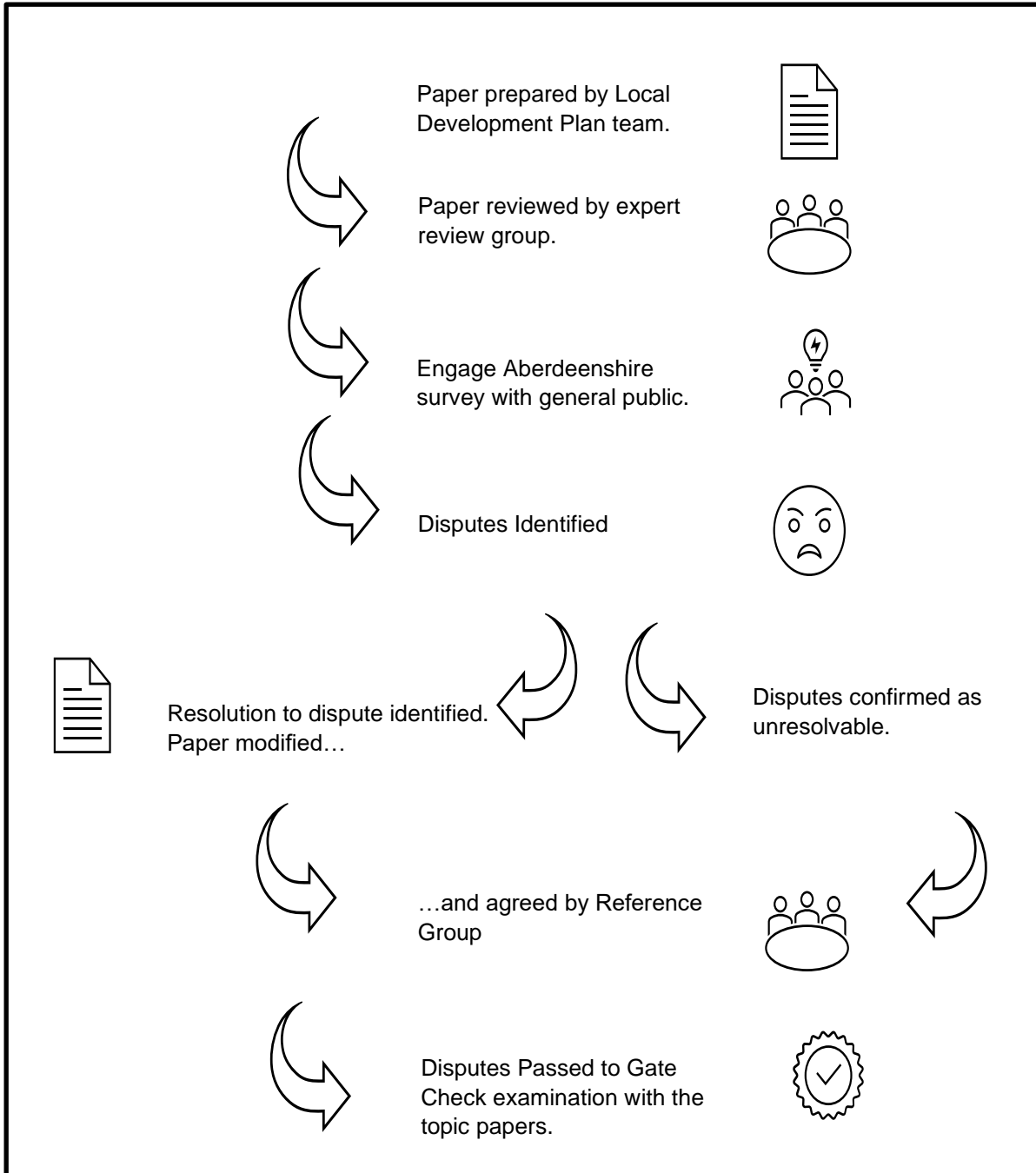
14. Tourism	July 2023
15. Culture and Creativity	August 2023
16. Energy	July 2023
17. Zero Waste	September 2023
18. Minerals	October 2023
19. Digital Infrastructure	April 2023
20. City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres	July 2023
21. Historic Assets and Places	June 2023
22. Green Belts	October 2023
23. Brownfield, Vacant and Derelict Land and Empty Buildings	May 2023
24. Rural Development	May 2023
25. Natural Places	August 2023
26. Soils	June 2023
27. Forestry, Woodland and Trees	August 2023
28. Coastal Development	September 2023
29. Blue and Green Infrastructure	September 2023
30. Health and Safety	October 2023
31. Lived in experience	May 2023
32. Play, Recreation and Sport	August 2023
33. Retail	August 2023
34. Community Wealth Building	May 2023

¹ These dates are estimates and indicate the core period of each six week consultation exercise. Dates may vary due to both earlier completion, or unforeseen slippage.

Detail on the content of these topic papers will discuss is set out in appendix 1. to this DPS.

A key piece of work will be the Infrastructure Audit (IA), this is an audit of what the existing capacity of our roads, schools, healthcare facilities, water supply network and waste water disposal will be prepared by the Future Infrastructure for Services group of Aberdeenshire Council. This will be completed to inform the Infrastructure First Topic Paper.

Figure 1: The Preparation, engagement and agreement of Evidence Report topic papers.



It is not anticipated that a single “final” Evidence Report will be prepared, instead a summary will be produced, guided by the Part C Figure 5 of the draft [Guidance on Local Development Planning](#). As noted previously these topic papers will be prepared with a focus on settlements, wards and Administrative areas. They will not be site specific.

9 How You Can Get Involved (the Participation Statement)

It is important that we engage with all those who may have an interest in the Local Development Plan during its preparation and each annual Development Plan Scheme must contain a Participation Statement setting out how this will be achieved. We aim to be open and honest in relation to engagement and consultation on the forthcoming Local Development Plan, and provide you with clear opportunities to have your voice heard. This is your plan, and we need to know what you want it to deliver.

In all our engagement on the Local Development Plan we will adopt the National Standards for Community Engagement. These are good-practice principles designed to improve and guide the process of community engagement to build and sustain relationships between public services and community groups – helping them both to understand and act on the needs or issues that communities experience². There are seven national standards, as illustrated in Figure 3. At all times we will make sure that help is provided for those with sight loss or other disabilities are assisted to understand and contribute to any engagement.

As a key stakeholder in the process we will also ensure that Community Councils are kept informed and involved at all stages of the preparation of the plan.

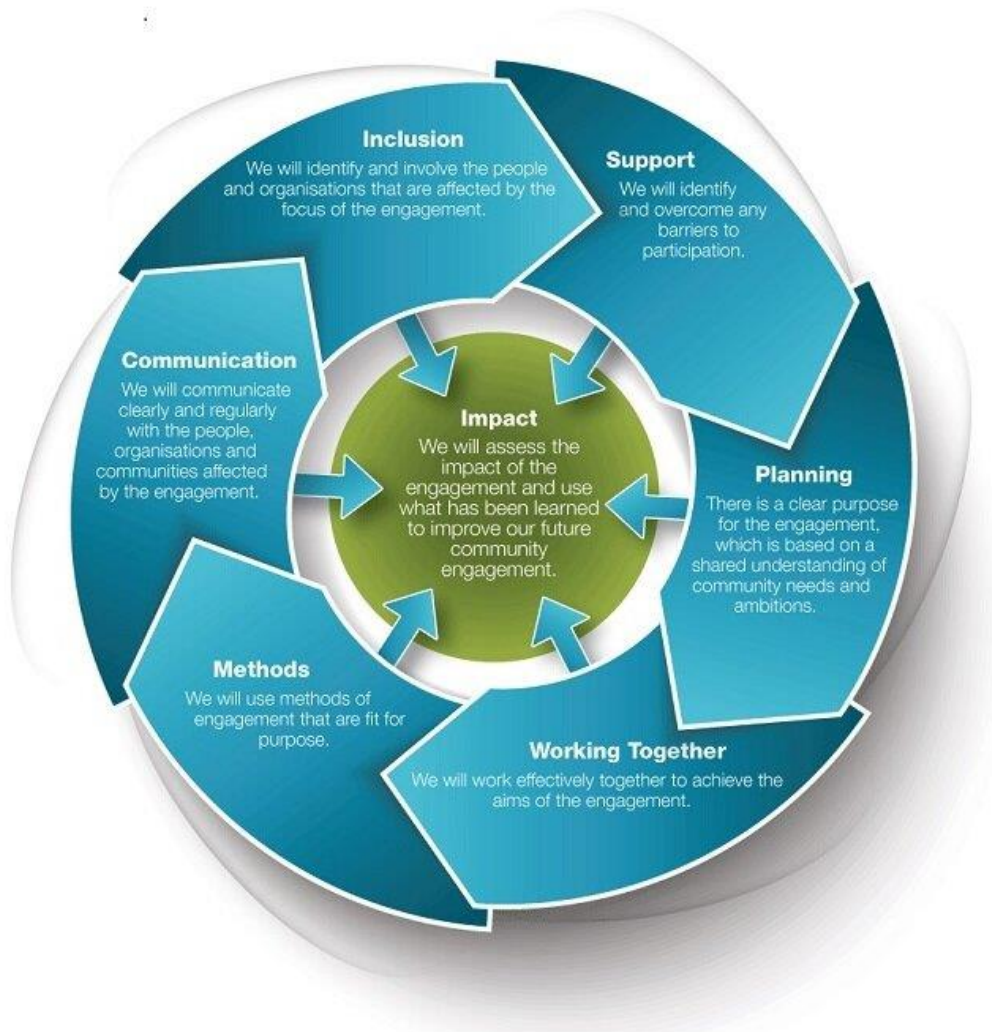


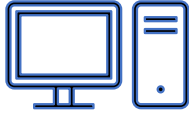
Figure 2 The National Standards for Community Engagement

² <https://www.voicescotland.org.uk/national-standards>

Collecting the right information

Section 8 provide, in brief, information on the overall consultation process proposed for the Local Development Plan. This section provides greater detail on the process we proposed to prepare the Evidence Report.

The topic-based Evidence Report format allows those people with an interest in a particular subject to contribute to the collection and assessment of information on that subject. This approach makes the preparation of the Evidence Report practical and avoids stakeholders being presented with a document so wide in its scope and content that meaningful consultation becomes difficult.



Significant use will be made of the [EngageAberdeenshire Local Development Plan hub](#)³ to both share information and seek stakeholders view upon it. This hub is a tool that allows us to manage multiple projects at any one time.

In the surveys that we publish we will specifically ask for information to assist us with both identifying what the issues may be and how we should address them in a future Local Development Plan, remembering that the planning system may only be a small part of any potential solution.

We will invite those with a specific interest and expertise to sit on the independent review groups. Membership of the Reference Groups will be open to experts on each topic, recognising that the Development Plan team officers may not have the insight and understanding of an expert. We anticipate that the Reference Groups will be small (six or so people) to provide focus and ensure that consensus can be reached. Where a topic is of particular interest, and a large number of people consider that they will be able to provide an expert role, we will selectively ask professional or trade bodies to nominate a representative.



Working in this way will ensure that anyone can make their views known and can be involved with the drawing up of the Evidence Report, but those with a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic are able to independently advise Aberdeenshire Council on the outcomes that we should seek. Please contact us on LDP@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if you think you have a role to play within a Reference Group.



“Dispute” is a formal term used in the [Guidance on Local Development Planning](#) where people disagree with the evidence collected, consider that there are alternative sources of information that should be used, or disagree with the conclusions made. Within the surveys we will ask whether people disagree with the content and findings of the Evidence Report topic papers. We will refer disputes to the Reference Group to determine if there is something missing from the draft topic paper on the topic, what can be done to resolve it, and whether it changes the specific conclusions that we have collectively made. If it is the consensus of the Reference Group to make a change to the topic paper, then we would be happy to adopt this. However, if the Reference Group does not think that the dispute can be resolved, this would then be noted to the Reporter at the Gate-check examination for formal scrutiny.



³ <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/hub-page/local-development-plan-2027>

The “Lived In” experience.



Of particular importance to the plan is the assessment of the “Lived In” experience of communities. This refers to the particular concerns and issues encountered by those living in their immediate surroundings. Lived in experiences will be collected through an audit of the existing Community Action Plans. Where Place Standard exercises (a tool supported by the Government to assess performance of an area on a range of planning and sustainability topics) have been undertaken they will also be added to the assessment. In the topic paper we will seek agreement from Community Councils that the issues identified from Community Action Plans and Place Standard exercises remain true. In addition, an opportunity to undertake new place standard exercises will be made, which can be used to identify what problems individuals (or community groups, including Community Councils) think that the Local Development Plan should resolve. This will be an open invitation for the period from May 2023 to November 2023 and will be collated in a final “Lived in” Evidence Report topic paper.

Communities and Local Place Plans



Local Place Plans represent part of the collection of information on the “Lived In” experience referred to above. Local Place Plans, introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and [Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans](#), are a way for communities to have how they would like to see their community develop, included in the Development Plan.

Local Place Plans are more than just a plan: they can help communities understand what they want their places to be like in the future and help to develop a positive community identity. They can help develop local connections, joint working, and develop community well-being. They can support how the local community wants to deal with the big challenges for a future Scotland, such as responding to the global climate emergency and tackling inequalities. They are an opportunity for real, community-based change to be reflected in the Local Development Plan and through which communities should find it easier to make change happen.

Local Place Plans and the communities producing them will benefit from the information contained in the Evidence Report and the outcomes of the Gate Check Examination. Communities working with the development industry will be important to make sure that their needs and desires are deliverable.

We would suggest that in order to ensure they can be included in preparing the Local Development Plan 2028, **Local Place Plans should be registered with Aberdeenshire Council by 31 December 2024**. This fits in with the Call for Ideas part of the Plan-making process. This timetable is not intended to stop communities from preparing Local Place Plans out with these times. The advice above is not intended to restrict communities to the Local Development Plan timetable.

Guidance on preparing Local Place plans is available on the Aberdeenshire Council website at <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/local-place-plans>.

Engaging With Younger People

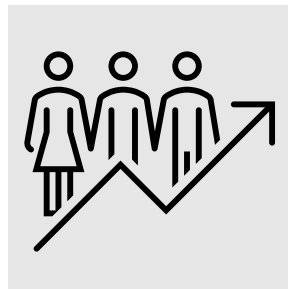
It is also important that we engage with younger people in the preparation of the development plan, as we will be discussing ideas and proposals that will have a direct impact on their lives as they mature and seek jobs, homes and recreation. We know that the fundamental principles of sustainability, somewhere to live, and somewhere to work are key concerns of young people contemplating the future in which they will grow up. Often we are not very good at talking with young people and we have found engagement with this group in traditional ways has been difficult. We intend to seek the aid of the School Youth Forums to promote involvement in the Local Development Plan. Experience of working with School Youth Forums has



demonstrated that often all that is needed is to ask them broad questions on which they can engage with their peers for a wealth of views to be returned. Members of the Youth Parliament and the Aberdeenshire Youth Forum will also be included in our consultations and where we identify additional opportunities to engage with young people we will do so.

This development plan scheme sets out a clear and fair assessment of our understanding of the new development plan process that the Scottish Government is requiring us to undertake, based on our assessment of the available guidance, our early engagement with key stakeholders, discussions with other Planning Authorities, and our experience in preparing previous Development Plans.

We will conduct a review of this Development Plan Scheme at the end of 2023 to inform next year's DPS. By then we think there will be more guidance from the Scottish Government and we will be able to plan out the next stages in this journey with you towards a sustainable, fair, and deliverable blueprint for places.



10 Appendix 1 Intended content of the topic papers

Taken from National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and the Scottish Government draft [Guidance on Local Development Planning](#) (GLDP).

Topic paper	What it will consider
01. Plan outcomes	No guidance
02. - Stakeholder Involvement	GLDP Para. 119. The Place Standard Tool can be used to stimulate early engagement on the challenges and opportunities of the plan area and inform the Evidence Report.
03. - Climate change and Mitigation (Reducing impact on the environment)	<p>NPF4: The LDP spatial strategy should be designed to reduce, minimise or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. The six spatial principles should form the basis of the spatial strategy, helping to guide development to, and create sustainable locations. The strategy should be informed by an understanding of the impacts of the proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>LDPs should support adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change by taking into account climate risks, guiding development away from vulnerable areas, and enabling places to adapt to those risks.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 243/244. The Evidence Report should consider existing sources and the scale of climate change emissions, and the likelihood and severity of climate risks to the area. The Evidence Report should identify heat related climate risks for infrastructure, places, particular land uses, communities and biodiversity.</p>
04. - Tackling the Climate Crisis (Adaptation and resilience in terms of reducing climate impact on us)	<p>NPF4: LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 243/244. The Evidence Report should consider existing sources and the scale of climate change emissions, and the likelihood and severity of climate risks to the area. The Evidence Report should identify heat related climate risks for infrastructure, places, particular land uses, communities and biodiversity.</p>
05. - Biodiversity and Nature Crisis	<p>NPF4: LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 245/246. The Evidence Report should be informed by an understanding of the natural assets and existing nature networks in the plan area. The plan should be informed by up-to-date audits, strategies and action plans, including the Local Biodiversity Action Plan where applicable, and take into account statutory Open Space Strategies and Forestry and Woodland Strategies.</p>
06. - Design, Quality and Place	<p>NPF4: LDPs should be place-based and created in line with the Place Principle. The spatial strategy should be underpinned by the six qualities of successful places. LDPs should provide clear expectations for design, quality and place taking account of the local context, characteristics and connectivity of the area. They should also identify where more detailed design guidance is expected, for example, by way of design frameworks, briefs, masterplans and design codes.</p> <p>NPF4: Planning authorities should use the Place Standard tool in the preparation</p>

	<p>of LDPs and design guidance to engage with communities and other stakeholders. They should also where relevant promote its use in early design discussions on planning applications.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 247. The Evidence Report should be informed by population statistics and projections, and take account of existing data on socio-economic performance, health and wellbeing, to support the development of place-based proposals.</p>
<p>07. - Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods</p>	<p>NPF4: LDPs should support local living, including 20-minute neighbourhoods within settlements, through the spatial strategy, associated site briefs and masterplans. The approach should take into account the local context, consider the varying settlement patterns and reflect the particular characteristics and challenges faced by each place. Communities and businesses will have an important role to play in informing this, helping to strengthen local living through their engagement with the planning system.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 248/250. This concept will apply differently across the country, and the principle can be adjusted to include varying geographical scales from cities and urban environments to rural and island communities. Plans should be informed by the Place Principle and place-based working. The Evidence Report should be informed as far as possible and proportionately by baseline information on local liveability about how well neighbourhoods function (may include what features they have and where, how the local community experiences it, and what the community wants and needs). It is about the quality of features and how they connect to higher order services to create networks of 20 MNs. The Evidence Report should be informed by info on where networks of 20MNs already exist, and where there are gaps in provision to help identify areas not currently well-served as 20MNs.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 251. Local liveability considerations should include information about community facilities, including ones used by the local community for the purpose of sport, leisure, support services, social interaction, health and well-being and childcare.</p>
<p>08. - Infrastructure First</p>	<p>NPF4:LDPs and delivery programmes should be based on an integrated infrastructure first approach. Plans should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be informed by evidence on infrastructure capacity, condition, needs and deliverability within the plan area, including cross boundary infrastructure; - set out the infrastructure requirements to deliver the spatial strategy, informed by the evidence base, identifying the infrastructure priorities, and where, how, when and by whom they will be delivered; and - indicate the type, level (or method of calculation) and location of the financial or in-kind contributions, and the types of development from which they will be required. <p>Plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans and policies and take account of the Scottish Government infrastructure investment hierarchy and sustainable travel and investment hierarchies in developing the spatial strategy. Consistent early engagement and collaboration between relevant stakeholders will better inform decisions on land use and investment.</p> <p>GLDP Para 252 - 257: An Infrastructure First approach to plan making should be undertaken, based on a process of early engagement and evidence gathering, including with public and private infrastructure providers. Early collaboration,</p>

	<p>evidence gathering and data sharing also offers potential benefits for infrastructure providers to inform their own plans and strategies.</p> <p>The Evidence Report provides an opportunity to front load infrastructure considerations in the preparation of LDPs. Evidence regarding existing and programmed infrastructure provision should be gathered, analysed and used at the early stages of plan preparation, including details of infrastructure capacity, condition and future investment.</p> <p>The Evidence Report should be informed by an audit of baseline infrastructure information and data (see column D for what it should include).</p> <p>The audit of infrastructure should address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communications - including digital and telecommunications networks and connections; • existing and planned transport infrastructure and services - their availability, accessibility and capacity in line with the NTS2 sustainable travel and investment hierarchies, including consideration of freight; • water management - supply, drainage systems and sewerage. This should also consider drinking water supply to the area, including areas not connected to public water mains, and how well adapted the drinking water supply is to the increased climate change risk of water scarcity and drought; • energy supplies - including electricity and heat networks, distribution and transmission electricity grid networks, and gas supplies; • health and social care services - including both services provided in the community directly by Health Boards and services provided on their behalf by contractors such as GPs, dentists and pharmacists; • education - including early years, primary, secondary, further and higher education services; • green and blue infrastructure; and • spaces for play and recreation. <p>The infrastructure evidence should be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set the context for the plan being built around an infrastructure first approach and is key for framing and informing early thinking on the Spatial Strategy for the Proposed Plan; • identify key opportunities and constraints within an area, based on both existing infrastructure provision but also committed future provision; and • offer opportunities to identify risks for climate change and to support the drive towards a more sustainable use of infrastructure, in line with the Infrastructure Investment Plan and NTS2 sustainable investment hierarchies, and Scotland’s transition to net zero. <p>Authorities will be expected to explain how they have or intend to implement an infrastructure first approach. This should include how existing capacity has been used, as far as possible, in line with the Investment Hierarchies set out in the Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy.</p>
<p>09. - Quality Homes</p>	<p>NPF4: LDPs are expected to identify a Local Housing Land Requirement for the area they cover. This is to meet the duty for a housing target and to represent how much land is required. To promote an ambitious and plan-led approach, the Local Housing Land Requirement is expected to exceed the 10-year Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) set out in Annex E.</p> <p>Deliverable land should be allocated to meet the 10-year Local Housing Land</p>

	<p>Requirement in locations that create quality places for people to live. Areas that may be suitable for new homes beyond 10 years are also to be identified. The location of where new homes are allocated should be consistent with local living including, where relevant, 20-minute neighbourhoods and an infrastructure first approach. In rural and island areas, authorities are encouraged to set out tailored approaches to housing which reflect locally specific market circumstances and delivery approaches. Diverse needs and delivery models should be taken into account across all areas, as well as allocating land to ensure provision of accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Show people where need is identified.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 258 - 267: The Evidence Report is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• include a section specifically on housing;• identify the proposed Housing Land Requirement (HLR);• provide a transparent and understandable explanation of how the HLR has been established; and• set out the methodology for assessing sites, including deliverability considerations, to be used when assessing sites prior to their allocation in the Proposed Plan. <p>The LDP must include 'targets for meeting the housing needs of the people living in the part of the district to which it relates' (section 15(1A)) of the 2019 Act. These statutory targets should be expressed as a Housing Land Requirement (HLR).</p> <p>NPF4 Annex B provides a 10-year Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority area. Planning authorities must take this into account in arriving at their HLR. It is expected that the HLR should at least meet the MATHLR set out in the NPF and that the MATHLR is the minimum amount of land for housing to be included within LDPs. This minimum should be increased where information informing the Evidence Report indicates this is required, for example by reference to updated household projections, local need figures or to reflect a change in local, regional or national policy.</p> <p>The housing section of the Evidence Report and the HLR should be informed by the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA). It is expected that the HNDA process will be completed in full, in line with published Scottish Government guidance. Where the Scottish Government (Centre for Housing Market Analysis) is satisfied that the HNDA is robust and credible, the approach used will not normally be considered further at the Gate Check.</p> <p>The planning authority should have regard to the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) in preparing the Evidence Report. This will, in particular, provide relevant information relating to different tenures of affordable and market housing for an area. This should inform the process of setting the all-tenure HLR.</p> <p>The same evidence can be used by the local authority for the LDP process as that used to inform the NPF4 MATHLR unless updated information is relevant. Additional housing information, including the most recent annual Housing Land Audit (HLA), Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) and the demand for self-build housing having regard to the list of persons seeking to acquire land for self-build housing (section 16E of the Act), should also inform the housing section of the Evidence Report.</p> <p>The Evidence Report should be informed by the views of the Gypsy / Traveller and</p>
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	<p>Travelling Show people community and other information on their housing needs identified in the HNDA and the Local Housing Strategy. Their views should be actively sought, and it may also be helpful to engage with neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Stakeholders expected to be engaged in the preparation of housing related evidence for the Evidence Report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local authority housing colleagues; • social housing providers; • private housing providers; • landowners; • representative bodies of housing providers and landowners; and • housing and specific interest groups. <p>The Evidence Report must set out a summary of the action taken by the planning authority to support and promote the construction and adaptation of housing to meet the housing needs of older people and disabled people in the authority's area, and an analysis of the extent to which the action has helped to meet those needs (section 16B(3)(b)(i)).</p> <p>In assessing the Evidence Report at the Gate Check, the Reporter is expected to take a view on whether there is sufficient information in the Evidence Report to establish the HLR.</p>
10. - Sustainable Transport	<p>NPF4: LDPs should prioritise locations for future development that can be accessed by sustainable modes. The spatial strategy should reflect the sustainable travel hierarchy and sustainable investment hierarchy by making best use of existing infrastructure and services.</p> <p>LDPs should promote a place-based approach to consider how to reduce car-dominance. This could include low traffic schemes, shared transport options, designing-in speed controls, bus/cycle priority, pedestrianisation and minimising space dedicated to car parking. Consideration should be given to the type, mix and use of development; local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods; car ownership levels; the accessibility of proposals and allocations by sustainable modes; and the accessibility for users of all abilities.</p> <p>LDPs should be informed by an appropriate and effective transport appraisal undertaken in line with relevant transport appraisal guidance. Plans should be informed by evidence of the area's transport infrastructure capacity, and an appraisal of the spatial strategy on the transport network. This should identify any potential cumulative transport impacts and deliverable mitigation proposed to inform the plan's infrastructure first approach. Where there is likely to be an impact on the trunk road or rail network, early engagement with Transport Scotland is required.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 268 - 273: LDPs must take account of the infrastructure of the district, which includes transport, and how that infrastructure is used (section 5(d) and (e) of the 2019 Act).</p> <p>The relationship between land use and transport is critical, particularly the capacity of existing transport networks, environmental and operational constraints, and proposed or committed transport projects. It is therefore expected that local planning and transport authorities will work closely in the preparation of the LDP. Stakeholders that would be expected to be engaged with to inform the preparation of the Evidence Report include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Scotland - particularly on potential issues for the strategic transport network and the Transport Appraisal methodology associated with this; • Regional Transport Partnerships – particularly on the planning and delivery of regional transport developments; • other neighbouring road authorities - particularly on cross boundary transport issues relating to the local network including on active travel, public transport and local roads and public transport service providers and infrastructure operators - on network provision and future commercial viability. <p>An audit of the transport infrastructure, services and capacity of the area should be undertaken, as part of the wider audit of infrastructure (see paragraph 254).</p> <p>The Evidence Report is expected to be informed by baseline transport information and data, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPF4: relevant aspects of the Spatial Strategy and National Developments; • national and regional transport problems and opportunities outlined in STPR2 Case for Change Reports and continued relevance of these; • national strategic transport priorities relating to the area as identified in STPR2; and • existing and planned transport infrastructure and services, their availability, accessibility and capacity in line with the NTS2 sustainable travel and investment hierarchies, including consideration of freight. <p>The following information and data is available from Transport Scotland to support planning authorities in aligning land use and transport planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the latest Strategic Transport Projects Review information published on the Transport Scotland website (currently STPR2); • Land use and Transport Integration in Scotland (LATIS). LATIS is a service managed and delivered by Transport Scotland, which has a database of transport, land-use and demographic data which is linked to a multi-modal transport and land-use modelling suite. Information from LATIS can provide a robust evidence base on which to appraise LDPs; and • other information available on the Transport Scotland website in relation to current and future data, projects and plans. <p>Other data sources should also be used. Information will also be available, including from Regional Transport Partnerships, relevant information or data in local and regional transport strategies, transport appraisals and assessments undertaken in the Plan area, transport service providers and others. Draft regulation 8(1)(e) and (f) require that in preparing an LDP the planning authority are to have regard to any regional transport strategy and any local transport strategy relating to the plan area.</p>
11. - Heating and Cooling	<p>NPF4: LDPs should take into account the area’s Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The spatial strategy should take into account areas of heat network potential and any designated Heat Network Zones (HNZ).</p> <p>GLDP Para. 274. Heat mapping should be undertaken to inform the potential for co-locating developments with a high heat demand together with or alongside sources of heat supply.</p>
12. - Flood Risk and Water Management	<p>NPF4: LDPs should strengthen community resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change, by avoiding development in areas at flood risk as a first principle. Resilience should also be supported by managing the need to bring previously used sites in built up areas into positive use; planning for adaptation</p>

	<p>measures; and identifying opportunities to implement improvements to the water environment through natural flood risk management and blue green infrastructure.</p> <p>Plans should take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area. A precautionary approach should be taken, regarding the calculated probability of flooding as a best estimate, not a precise forecast. For areas where climate change is likely to result in increased flood exposure that becomes unmanageable, consideration should be given to alternative sustainable land use.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 277. A SFRA should be undertaken to inform choices about the location of development (cannot do this at this time as we have no developments to assess). They should have regard to the flood maps prepared by SEPA, and support the implementation of the relevant objectives and actions of finalised and approved flood risk management plans and river basin management plans. Any significant cross boundary flooding and water issues should be taken into account.</p>
13. - Business and Industry	<p>NPF4: LDPs should allocate sufficient land for business and industry, taking into account business and industry land audits, in particular ensuring that there is a suitable range of sites that meet current market demand, location, size and quality in terms of accessibility and services. This allocation should take account of local economic strategies and support broader objectives of delivering a low carbon and net zero economic recovery, and a fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 284. Business Land Audits should be undertaken regularly by local authorities to inform reviews of development plans, and updated more frequently if relevant - they should monitor the location, size, planning status, existing use, neighbouring land uses and any significant land use issues (e.g., underused, vacant, derelict) of sites within the existing business land supply.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 285. Based on Business Land Audits the Evidence Report should establish the requirement for employment land. This should inform the approach to planning land for business and industry and reflect principal economic characteristics of the area, and any anticipated change in them, where necessary using any up to- date market intelligence and demand forecasting that informs associated local economic strategies.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 286. The Evidence Report should include analysis of employment need, local poverty, disadvantage and inequality, to highlight where future business and industry development would provide most benefit.</p>
14. - Tourism	<p>NPF4: LDPs should support the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector. The spatial strategy should identify suitable locations which reflect opportunities for tourism development by taking full account of the needs of communities, visitors, the industry and the environment. Relevant national and local sector driven tourism strategies should also be taken into account.</p> <p>The spatial strategy should also identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities, and where further development is not appropriate.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 287. The Evidence Report should be informed by relevant sector driven tourism strategies and identify any key spatial issues.</p>

15. - Culture and Creativity	<p>NPF4:LDPs should recognise and support opportunities for jobs and investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 288. The Evidence Report should be informed by any relevant Creative Scotland plans and strategies. The planning authority must set out in the Evidence Report their view on the desirability of maintaining an appropriate number and range of cultural venues and facilities (including in particular, but not limited to, live music venues) in the district (see Annex B).</p>
16. - Energy	<p>NPF4: LDPs should seek to realise their area’s full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources by identifying a range of opportunities for energy development.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 289. The Evidence Report should be informed by established boundaries relating to National Parks and National Scenic Areas. It should consider the sensitivity of other nationally and internationally important designated sites in line with wider policies set out in NPF.</p>
17. - Zero Waste	<p>NPF4: LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible</p> <p>GLDP Para. 290. The Evidence Report should be informed by requirements as set out by Scottish waste regulations, and draft regulation 8(1) requires that the planning authority are to have regard to the national waste management plan in preparing the LDP. The Evidence Report should also be informed by relevant circular economy strategies and plans, including consideration of waste and recycling targets, as well as local waste information.</p>
18. - Minerals	<p>NPF4: LDPs should support a landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10-years at all times in the relevant market areas, whilst promoting sustainable resource management, safeguarding important workable mineral resources, which are of economic or conservation value, and take steps to ensure these are not sterilised by other types of development.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 293. The Evidence Report should include information that can clearly demonstrate if the planning authority is capable of meeting the 10-year landbank of construction aggregate in all market areas. The type of evidence that would be required can include information on existing permitted minerals reserves within the plan area and any relevant elements from the latest Aggregates Survey around usage trends. This information should help inform whether there is a sufficient supply of minerals or whether it is expected that further releases are required. In those areas where there is a history of being reliant on other planning authorities for their supply of construction aggregate, it would be for the planning authority to determine how best to provide evidence of these future supply chains.</p>
19. - Digital Infrastructure	<p>NPF4: LDPs should support the delivery of digital infrastructure, including fixed line and mobile connectivity, particularly in areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 294-296. The Evidence Report should identify any gaps in digital coverage to inform the facilitation of improvements in digital connectivity. This may be informed by the roll-out plans of digital communications operators, community groups and others such as the Scottish Government, the UK Government and local authorities.</p>

	<p>Planning authorities should also ensure they engage with other relevant departments, such as economic development and where appropriate Mobile Network Operator (MNO)s and Wireless Infrastructure Providers (WIPs) to provide details of programmed investment in digital within the area.</p> <p>The Evidence Report should establish the methodology that will be used for site assessment for new digital infrastructure to be included in the Spatial Strategy.</p>
20. - City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres	<p>NPF4: LDPs should support sustainable futures for city, town and local centres, in particular opportunities to enhance city and town centres. They should, where relevant, also support proposals for improving the sustainability of existing commercial centres where appropriate.</p> <p>LDPs should identify a network of centres that reflect the principles of 20-minute neighbourhoods and the town centre vision.</p> <p>LDPs should be informed by evidence on where clustering of non-retail uses may be adversely impacting on the wellbeing of communities. They should also consider, and if appropriate, identify any areas where drive-through facilities may be acceptable where they would not negatively impact on the principles of local living or sustainable travel.</p> <p>LDPs should provide a proportion of their Local Housing Land Requirements in city and town centres and be proactive in identifying opportunities to support residential development.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 297-299. The Evidence Report should be informed by town centre audits for each town centre to harness its strengths, support vitality and viability, tackle weaknesses and improve resilience. Local authorities should work with community planning partners, businesses and community groups as appropriate to prepare the town centre audit. Audits should be regularly updated, to monitor town centre performance, preferably every two years.</p> <p>To inform the Evidence Report as part of town centre audits and strategies planning authorities should gather information on - where there are gaps in supply of existing housing and flats relative to demand; where there is capacity or opportunities to develop new housing and flats without compromising active use of ground floors and public spaces, or a mix of uses in the area; and any related initiatives that would protect and improve residents' quality of life.</p> <p>Planning Authorities should consider if there is need for a retail study to identify where there may be a need for further retail provision.</p>
21. - Historic Assets and Places	<p>NPF4:LDPs, including through their spatial strategies, should support the sustainable management of the historic environment. They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 300. The Evidence Report should be informed by relevant strategies, action plans and records relating to historic assets and places. These could include Townscape Audits, Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, potential Compulsory Purchase Orders, Place Standard assessments, Town Centre Action Plans, the Buildings at Risk Register, Article 4 Directions, and Historic Land Use Assessments. Planning authorities should take the opportunity to consider in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland where designation records could be amended or updated.</p>

22. - Green Belt	<p>NPF4:LDPs should consider using green belts, to support their spatial strategy as a settlement management tool to restrict development around towns and cities.</p> <p>Green belts will not be necessary for most settlements but may be zoned around settlements where there is a significant danger of unsustainable growth in car-based commuting or suburbanisation of the countryside.</p> <p>Green belts should be identified or reviewed as part of the preparation of LDPs. Boundary changes may be made to accommodate planned growth, or to extend, or alter the area covered as green belt. Detailed green belt boundaries should be based on evidence and should be clearly identified in plans.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 301. Where relevant a green belt review of any existing or potential green belts should be carried out as part of the evidence to inform plan-making. This may consider the need for any new green belt and should provide evidence to inform any extension or review of precise green belt boundaries.</p>
23. - Brownfield, Vacant and Derelict Land and Empty Buildings	<p>NPF4:LDPs should set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and empty buildings.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 302. The Evidence Report should identify vacant and derelict land and be informed by the Buildings at Risk Register. Whilst highlighting properties of architectural or historic merit, the Buildings at Risk Register can also include properties which are not necessarily in poor condition but which may simply be standing empty with no clear future use or be threatened with demolition.</p>
24. - Rural Development	<p>NPF4:LDPs should be informed by an understanding of population change over time, locally specific needs and market circumstances in rural and island areas.</p> <p>LDPs should set out tailored approaches to rural housing and where relevant include proposals for future population growth – including provision for small-scale housing such as crofts and woodland crofts and the appropriate resettlement of previously inhabited areas. The Scottish Government's 6-fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Plans should reflect locally appropriate delivery approaches. Previously inhabited areas that are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 303. Where appropriate, the Evidence Report should identify types of rural areas within the plan area based on the urban rural classification, as well as Islands and Sparsely Populated Areas. It should also identify the rural population distribution and demographic profile, including, where relevant, areas where there has been a substantial decline in population over time.</p>
25. - Natural Places	<p>NPF4:LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts. The spatial strategy should safeguard them and take into account the objectives and level of their protected status in allocating land for development. Spatial strategies should also better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 304-306. The Evidence Report should be informed by details of locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued natural assets, landscapes, species and habitats within the plan area, informed by relevant plans and strategies such as the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>

	<p>A review of any local designations including consideration of their function and continuing relevance, should be carried out as part of the Evidence Report, to inform plan-preparation.</p> <p>LDPs should also be informed by strategic maps/data sets [peatland 2016 Map/ Native Woodland Survey of Scotland// Wildland Map 2014/ James Hutton Land use classification] to identify potential areas of sensitivity for non-statutory areas of national importance.</p>
26. - Soils	<p>NPF4: LDPs should protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 307. The Evidence report should be informed by an understanding of the likely soil assets in the area. Maps such as the Nature Scot Peatland map and James Hutton Institute land use classification map should be used to inform likely sites of peatland, carbon rich soils and different land use classifications within a plan area.</p>
27. - Forestry, Woodland and Trees	<p>NPF4:LDPs should identify and protect existing woodland and the potential for its enhancement or expansion to avoid habitat fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity, helping to support and expand nature networks. The spatial strategy should identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in the area, including their development, protection and enhancement, resilience to climate change, and the expansion of a range of types to provide multiple benefits. This will be supported and informed by an up-to-date Forestry and Woodland Strategy.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 308-309. The Evidence Report should be informed by the Forestry & Woodland Strategy for the area.</p> <p>The Evidence Report should be informed by relevant inventories, such as the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland and the Ancient Woodland Inventory, alongside records such as Tree Protection Orders, to help identify trees and woodlands of high nature conservation in the plan area.</p>
28. - Coastal Development	<p>NPF4:LDP spatial strategies should consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change. This should recognise that rising sea levels and more extreme weather events resulting from climate change will potentially have a significant impact on coastal and islands areas, and take a precautionary approach to flood risk including by inundation. Spatial strategies should reflect the diversity of coastal areas and opportunities to use nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of coastal communities and assets. LDP spatial strategies should identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast and should align with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 310. The Evidence Report should be informed by coastal evidence and information from Scottish Government's Dynamic Coast maps and reports, SEPA's coastal flood maps and local authorities' coastal change adaptation plans (where these have been prepared).</p>
29. - Blue and Green Infrastructure	<p>NPF4: LDPs should be informed by relevant, up-to date audits and/or strategies, covering the multiple functions and benefits of blue and green infrastructure (public open space on water and land). The LDP's spatial strategy should identify and protect blue and green infrastructure assets and networks; enhance and expand</p>

	<p>existing provision including new blue and/or green infrastructure. This may include retrofitting Priorities for connectivity to other blue and/or green infrastructure assets, including to address cross-boundary needs and opportunities, should also be identified.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 275-276. The Evidence Report should be informed by up-to-date blue and green infrastructure audits, strategies and action plans, including statutory duties for Open Space Strategies and Forestry & Woodland Strategies. The audit should identify existing blue and green infrastructure, including access rights and core paths, and areas with an important role in flood water storage or conveyance.</p> <p>The Act sets out at section 16D(1) that a planning authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children in preparing an Evidence Report.</p>
30. - Health and Safety	<p>NPF4:LDP spatial strategies should seek to tackle health inequalities particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage. They should identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needed in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships.</p> <p>LDPs should create healthier places for example through opportunities for exercise, healthier lifestyles, land for community food growing and allotments, and awareness of locations of concern for suicide.</p> <p>Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 279-283. The Evidence Report should identify any significant health issues in the plan area. This may be informed by health data such as above average rates of over-weight people, and the prevalence of related disease, or mental health issues. Spatial information may also be useful, such as on the location and type of food retail; land available for local or community food growing, and the availability of local food markets, market gardens, other non-agricultural commercial food growing. Information on access to open space and green networks will also be relevant in relation to health outcomes.</p> <p>The Evidence Report should include information on the nature and distribution of poor air quality.</p> <p>The Evidence Report should identify areas that are at high risk from historical coal mining.</p> <p>The Evidence Report should be informed by the location of major-hazard sites, and their consultation zones, any additional, recently granted Hazardous Substances Consents, and any expansion plans for new or existing sites, of businesses/operators using hazardous substances that the planning authority is aware of.</p>
31. - Lived in experience	<p>GLDP Paragraph 123. The Evidence Report should include proportionate information about the lived experience of those who live and work in a place, to be considered together with technical data. There is a statutory requirement to seek particular views in preparing the Evidence Report (see paragraphs 101 and 102) but there is not a requirement to consult on it. Forthcoming Scottish Government</p>

	<p>guidance on Community Engagement should inform the approach taken to engaging the public in the preparation of the Evidence Report. Close Engagement with community groups, for example Community Planning Partnerships and community councils will help to ensure that the Evidence Report provides a strong foundation for a place-based, people focused LDP.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 24. Innovative approaches to engagement, for example community-led design or the Place Standard Tool should be used to stimulate early engagement and inform the Evidence Report. Where needed, mediation initiatives tailored to the unique circumstances, can also be used. Further detail on effective community engagement will be included in separate guidance.</p>
<p>32. - Play, Recreation and Sport</p>	<p>NPF4: LDPs should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. These spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and/or water management plans. New provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.</p> <p>GLDP Para. 275-276. The Evidence Report should be informed by up-to-date blue and green infrastructure audits, strategies and action plans., including statutory duties for Open Space Strategies and Forestry & Woodland Strategies. The audit should identify existing blue and green infrastructure, including access rights and core paths, and areas with an important role in flood water storage or conveyance.</p> <p>The Act sets out at section 16D(1) that a planning authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children in preparing an Evidence Report.</p>
<p>33. - Retail</p>	<p>NPF4:LDPs should consider where there may be a need for further retail provision, this may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where a retail study identifies deficiencies in retail provision in terms of quality and quantity in an area; or • when allocating sites for housing or the creation of new communities, in terms of the need for neighbourhood shopping, and supporting local living. <p>LDPs should identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink outlets can be supported</p>
<p>34. - Community Wealth Building</p>	<p>NPF4:LDPs should be aligned with any strategy for community wealth building for the area. Spatial strategies should address community wealth building priorities; identify community assets; set out opportunities to tackle economic disadvantage and inequality; and seek to provide benefits for local communities.</p>