

# Welcome

... to the Aberdeenshire Local Plan. This is the first Local Plan to cover the whole of Aberdeenshire, and will replace all three Plans previously published as the Consolidated Aberdeenshire Local Plans. In doing so it will conform with the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan.

Aberdeenshire Council's statement of aims is:

- To maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire by delivering first class public services.
- To protect and improve Aberdeenshire's special environment for this and future generations of residents and visitors.
- To help sustain and develop our communities by encouraging a wide range of successful economic activities.

Land use planning has a key role to play in helping us to deliver these aims. This Local Plan has taken the issue of sustainability to its heart – there is a growing understanding of the need to balance economic, social and environmental demands. Future decisions informed by these policies will, I believe, help sustain our communities and protect our special environment for our children and grandchildren.

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to involving our many communities in decision making and this has been demonstrated by the thorough and open consultation which has been carried out on the draft Plan. The new Plan was finalised by the Council in the light of extensive public consultation and after a series of meetings of both the Area Committees and the Infrastructure Services Committee between January and May 2002. Subsequently it has been modified in the light of the recommendations of two Scottish Executive Reporters who held a Public Local Inquiry into objections to the Plan. The adopted Plan is also now available on the worldwide web and on CD-ROM, as well as in traditional paper format (as a whole or in Area extracts), either to buy or to view at main public offices and libraries.

If you have any questions about the new Aberdeenshire Local Plan, please contact us at the address on the back cover of the Plan.

Alison McInnes

Chairman of the Infrastructure Services Committee

*Alison McInnes.*



