

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE 22 FEBRUARY 2022

ABERDEENSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME 2022

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 Aberdeenshire Council is required to prepare and submit to Scottish Ministers, at least annually, a Development Plan Scheme (DPS). There have been unforeseen delays in the publication of Regulations by Scottish Ministers governing the next generation of Local Development Plans (LDP). This results in uncertainty for the programme for the Plan to be delivered in 2027. As such the Development Plan Scheme 2022, that is presented for consideration as **Appendix 1**, addresses the procedural steps required for the approval of the LDP 2022, but commits to actions to engage on a second Development Plan Scheme later in the year. This second DPS would present the timetable and participation statement for the Local Development Plan that we anticipate would be adopted in 2027. The draft Development Plan Scheme, amended by comments from Area Committees, will be presented for approval to Infrastructure Services Committee on 10 March 2022.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider, discuss, and provide comment on the draft Development Plan Scheme 2022, which is set out in the Appendix to this Report, to Infrastructure Services Committee on 10 March 2022.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 Comments from all six Area Committees will be presented to Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) on 10 March 2022. The previous Development Plan Scheme (DPS 2021) was approved by Infrastructure Services Committee ([Item 7](#)) on 13 May 2021 following consideration at Area Committees on the 20 April, 27 April and 4 May 2021.

3 Discussion

3.1 Under section 20(B) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended, the Scheme is required to set out the Authority's programme for preparing and reviewing their LDP, and what is likely to be involved at each stage. An annual programme of preparation of Development Plan Schemes has been undertaken since 2009.

3.2 Regulation 24 requires Development Plan Schemes to contain a timetable, specifying the months in which the Authority proposes to publish its next Proposed Plan and to submit the Plan to Scottish Ministers. The Scottish Government advise that in setting the timetable and ensuring it can be adhered to, Planning Authorities should consider a range of issues. These will include their own planning and administrative resources as well as the capacity of key agencies and other stakeholders to feed into the process at key stages. The potential need for research and for appraisals to be carried out to inform the evidence base should also be factored in.

- 3.3 While the previous Proposed Plan was published in 2021 the development planning system is undergoing significant procedural change resulting from the identification by the Scottish Government for a need to modernise the planning system. This has already resulted in legislation that will remove significant stages from the Plan making process (for example the publication of a “Main Issues Report”), and has introduced alternative steps, such as the production of an “Evidence Report” subject to early examination and scrutiny by Scottish Ministers before the proposed Plan is prepared.
- 3.4 Change is coming and draft regulations to give substance to the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 have been produced for consultation. A stakeholder survey conducted in late December highlighted that there was significant interest in the early production of the Local Development Plan under these Regulations. However, at this time we believe that significant discussion should take place before the timetable for the next Plan could be prepared with any confidence, and that it would be misleading to try to anticipate the final regulations.
- 3.5 Consequently we recommend that a Development Plan Scheme that details the end processes of the LDP2022 is published in March, but that a second Development Plan Scheme is prepared in the Autumn that will set out the anticipated timetable and proposals for participation and engagement by stakeholders.
- 3.7 Within the draft Development Plan Scheme 2022 (Included as **Appendix 1** to this Report) we propose to set out the anticipated timetable for the adoption of the Local Development Plan 2022. Unfortunately this timetable is complicated by two elements. Firstly, we have been advised that the Report of the Public Examination into the Proposed LDP2020 is likely to be completed in “late Spring 2022” but no firm date has yet been given. Previously a date of 22 February was provided. From the date of this Report legislation requires that the LDP2022 is adopted within 3 months. This may be impacted upon by the Local Government elections on 5 May 2022 and the subsequent establishment of the new Council. It is likely that a very rapid process will have to be undertaken to see the Plan approved for adoption before the May election, or presented immediately after the Election.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This Report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities “Education” and “Health and Wellbeing” within the pillar of “Our People” and supports the key principles which underpin these priorities of right people, right places and tackling poverty and inequalities.
- 4.2 In supporting the Local Development Plan this Report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities “Infrastructure” and “Resilient Communities” within the pillar “Our Environment” and supports the key principles which underpin these priorities of climate and sustainability.

- 4.3 This Report helps deliver the Strategic Priorities “Economy and Enterprise” under the Pillar of “Our Economy” and supports the key principles which underpin these priorities of digital infrastructure and economy.
- 4.4 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		✓	
Staffing	✓		
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	✓ [IIA attached as Appendix 2]		
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing	✓ [IIA attached as Appendix 2]		
Climate Change and Sustainability		✓	
Health and Wellbeing		✓	
Town Centre First		✓	

- 4.5 The financial and staffing implications in producing and implementing the Development Plan Scheme are covered within the existing Planning & Economy (Local Development Plan) budget. No risks or implications are anticipated as no exceptional cost are anticipated.
- 4.6 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as **Appendix 2** and two negative impacts have been identified that cannot be mitigated satisfactorily. The DPS may have an impact on younger age groups who are not so engaged with civic society as adults and may not yet understand some of the broad concepts being expressed in the DPS. There may be discrimination towards people considered as having a disability (as defined within the Equality Act 2010) by cognitive issues. The DPS reflects a complex process that includes a number of matters which require an grasp of civic and governance issues.
- 4.7 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter in the [Corporate Risk register](#):
- ACORP005: Working with other organisations (e.g., supply chains, outsourcing, partnership working and commercialisation). A wide range of partner organisations are dependent on the Local Development Plan to achieve our common goals.
 - ACORP006: Reputation management (including social media). Development management is a key element of the interface between many thousands of households and Aberdeenshire Council on an annual basis. It is important that the Proposed Local Development Plan is seen to be a robust and credible document to support the Council’s high reputation.

- ACORP007: Social risk (e.g., population changes, poverty & social inequality, demographic changes, crime, antisocial behavior). The Proposed Local Development Plan is intrinsically associated with meeting the needs of a future population and responding to demographic changes.
- ACORP010: Environmental challenges e.g., extreme weather events, climate change (this includes localised risks around flooding and air pollution and the need for communities to display resilience). Climate change is a key theme in the Proposed Local Development Plan.

4.8 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter in the [Directorate Risk Register](#):

- BSSR004 Community Empowerment: The Proposed Local Development Plan has been the subject of extensive discussions with Community Councils and other Community Groups. However, not all decisions may support their viewpoint and there may be disappointment that some views have not been adopted.

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this Report and their comments are incorporated within the Report. They are satisfied that the Report follows the Aberdeenshire Council's [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part of the Scheme of Governance to consider, comment on, make recommendations to Services and any other appropriate Committee on any matter or policy which impacts its Area.

Alan Wood
Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services
 Report by Piers Blaxter, Policy Team Leader

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1	Draft Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Development Plan Scheme 2022
Appendix 2	Integrated Impact Assessment

Appendix 1**Draft Development Plan Scheme****Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan****January 2022****Aberdeenshire Development Plan Scheme 2022****Introduction**

Aberdeenshire Council are required to produce a statement of the timetabling, the project plan, and an account of what public consultation will be undertaken for the production of a Local Development Plan. This **Development Plan Scheme** sets out those matters for the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022, which is likely to be published later in the year.

We know that the planning system is undergoing fundamental change as a result of the enactment of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2021, and the Scottish Government has been consulting on draft regulations that will govern this new approach to the Local Development Plan. We are of the view that we have insufficient understanding of the implications of these changes at this time and cannot provide certainty for any programme of work beyond the adoption of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022.

In this context it will be necessary to produce a second Development Plan Scheme during 2022 that provides information on the programming and engagement that we anticipate for a Local Development Plan likely to be adopted in 2027. We expect we will be able to provide a Development Plan Scheme for the LDP2027 in the autumn of 2022. This will give us the opportunity to assess the new system being promoted by the Scottish Government and engage with our stakeholders on the most appropriate way to deliver that plan before we commit to a document that will govern actions thereafter.

As a consequence, this should be seen as an interim document that meets our legal obligations to publish a Development Plan Scheme on an annual basis and is only relevant for the last few months in the development of the Local Development Plan 2022.

The Development Plan in Aberdeenshire

The statutory Development Plan Scheme in Aberdeenshire consists of the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (approved by Scottish Ministers on 12 August 2020) and the current Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 (adopted on 17 April 2017). To support this plan Aberdeenshire Council published 9 volumes of Supplementary Guidance (See appendix 1).

Shortly, on its approval by the Scottish Parliament the National Planning Framework 4 will replace the Strategic Development Plan as part of the statutory planning system.

Within the Aberdeenshire Council Area, the Local Development Plan is applicable in all areas except the Cairngorms National Park Plan Area, which has its own Local Development Plan:



It can be anticipated that the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022 will be adopted within a matter of months from the approval of this Development Plan Scheme. The exact date will be dependent on the date of close of the Examination, a matter that is outwith the control of Aberdeenshire Council.

Timetable for the production of the Local Development Plan 2022

The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022 will replace the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017 and its associated supplementary guidance.

Work on the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan started in 2017 and a Proposed Plan was published on 25 May 2020. Since that time the Plan has been consulted upon and the representations made presented to the Scottish Ministers, who have, since 24 May 2021, been conducting an examination of unresolved representations through Reporters from their Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals. This is in accordance with Section (19) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

Table 1 sets out the complete timetable followed for the production of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022.

Table 1. Stages of the ALDP2022

Milestone	Strategic Environmental assessment (SEA) milestone	Completed during....
Pre-Main Issues engagement	Preparing SEA scoping report	Up to January 2019
Publication and consultation on the Main Issues Report and publication of a draft Proposed Local Development Plan	Publication of the interim Environmental Report of the SEA	From 14 January 2019 to 8 April 2019
Publication and consultation on the Proposed Local Development Plan	Publication and consultation of the Environmental Report of the SEA of the Proposed Local Development Plan	From 25 May 2020 to 31 July 2020
Proposed Local Development Plan and unresolved objections submitted for examination to the Scottish Ministers	Publish responses to the consultation on the Environmental Report of the SEA of the Proposed Local Development Plan	Submitted to Scottish Ministers on 12 March 2021
Examination of the Proposed Local Development Plan. Conducted by lead reporter Alison Kirkwood, the examination is considering unresolved representations relating to 58 topics. Requests for further		12 March 2021 to 22 February 2022

information have been made on 10 topics (as of 31 December 2021)		
Reporter's Report of the Examination published		As of 31 December 2021, the DPEA have clarified that the complexity of some of the matters being considered will result in completion in "early 2022" but have not yet specified what that date may be.
Reporter's Report and its implications considered by Committees of Aberdeenshire Council		Reference to six Area Committees and to Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) for consideration within 6 weeks of the Reporter's Report*.
Aberdeenshire Council to advertise and publish the modifications to be made and the Plan as it intends to adopt, and advise all representees.	Post Adoption Statement is published and the Environmental statement of the Proposed Local Development Plan to be modified in the light of modifications made.	Aberdeenshire Council to consider the views of Area Committees and ISC and resolve on the Plan it intends to adopt within 8 weeks of the Reporter's recommendation*.
Scottish Ministers to be advised of the Proposed Local Development Plan Aberdeenshire Council would wish to adopt	Modified environmental statement of the Proposed Local Development Plan the Council intends to adopt submitted to Scottish Ministers.	May 2022
Confirmation from Scottish Ministers, or expiry of 28 days, and adoption of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022		June 2022
Period for Legal challenge		June 2022 to September 2022

Revised Acton Plan published		September 2022
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Due to the potential disruption to the political process that will result from the Local Government Elections on 5 May 2022, and the legal obligation to adopt the Local Development Plan within three months of the receipt of the Reporter's Recommendation a concatenated process for consideration by Committees may be required.

On a decision by the Council of its intent to adopt the Plan, modified as required, the Council will:

- Publish a notice in a local newspaper noting Aberdeenshire Council's intention to adopt the Plan and advising where it may be inspected;
- Make copies of the Local Development Plan the Council would wish to adopt available in public libraries, Area Planning Offices (provided Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted) and on the Aberdeenshire Council website; and
- Notify people who made representations in respect of the Plan that the Proposed Plan has been published in the form in which the Council propose to adopt it, and where and when it can be viewed.

The Council is required to advise Scottish Ministers of its intent to adopt the Plan and, barring a direction from the Scottish Ministers, 28 days later the Plan can be formally adopted. At this point the Council will:

- Formally Publish the Plan;
- Publish the Plan on the Aberdeenshire Council website;
- Advertise its publication and availability in a local newspaper; and
- Notify people who made representations in respect of the proposed Local Development Plan of its publication and availability.

How to get involved (The Participation Statement)

Aberdeenshire Council remains committed to the involvement by interested parties and stakeholders in the formulation of the adopted Local Development Plan. Throughout the production of the Proposed Plan 2020 we have embraced the National Standards for Community Participation:



The actions that we have taken are set out in the “Statement of Conformity with the Participation Statement” that was the first matter considered by the PLDP Examination. These included our award-winning approach to digital consultation, adopted in 2020. The Reporters considered this document and found that the Council had acted appropriately: that our engagement was sufficient and, therefore that the Plan was competent for examination.

We have published this statement on our website at

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/26310/conformitywithparticipationstatement2021.pdf>.

Opportunities for people to express their views on the proposed modifications recommended by the Reporters are now limited. While it is possible to disagree with the Reporter’s recommendations the scope to do this is limited by the Town and Country Planning (Grounds for declining to follow recommendations) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 as follows. The circumstances where Authorities may depart from recommendations are where the recommendation(s):

- (a) would have the effect of making the LDP inconsistent with the National Planning Framework, or with any SDP or national park plan for the same area;
- (b) is incompatible with Part IVA of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994;
- (c) would not be acceptable having regard to an environmental assessment carried out by the Planning Authority on the Plan following modification in response to recommendations;

- (d) are based on conclusions that could not reasonably have been reached based on the evidence considered at the Examination.

No formal opportunity is to be provided for lay-people to comment on these issues although there will be opportunity to lobby Elected Members prior to the Committee Meeting at which the Reporter's recommendations are to be discussed.

Recently, it has been the case that errors in judgement within the Reporter's Recommendations or the subsequent actions by Planning Authorities have been tested in the Courts following adoption of the Plan.

Future Local Development Plans

The timing of Regulations governing the "Transforming Planning" agenda still makes it very difficult to anticipate when the process of preparing a new Local Development Plan will start. However, we fully anticipate that, following the publication of draft regulations, there will be some certainty on this matter by the time the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022 is adopted.

The Scottish Government advise that after the provisions of the 2019 Act are brought into force, it will be important for the first round of 'new style' Plans to be brought forward in a timely fashion. On that basis, it is envisaged that every Planning Authority in Scotland will have a 'new style' Local Development Plan in place by 2027.

Timescales for preparing Aberdeenshire Council's next Local Development Plan will be included in a future Development Plan Scheme when further information is available from the Scottish Government. It is anticipated that work on the Local Development Plan will commence immediately after the adoption of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2022, initially focussing on collecting information to produce an "Evidence Report", identified as a key early stage in new style Local Development Plans. A key part of this will be engaging with key agencies, local communities and children and young people.

Over the next six months we will engage with our customers and stakeholders to be able to present conclusions on how engagement on the Local Development Plan 2027 should take place. This will involve direct engagement with Community Councils and Development interests to evaluate what forms of engagement worked well during the formulation of the Proposed Local Development Plan 2020 and may be applicable to a 'new style' Local Development Plan process. The following actions are proposed:

- Questionnaire to Community Council on their perception of the most valuable elements of the process that delivered the Proposed Local Development Plan 2022.
- Questionnaire to development agents seeking advice on the clarity and appropriateness of the methods used in developing the Proposed Local Development Plan 2022.
- Open Seminar with Major Housebuilding interests to help identify the best way of delivering the outcomes of the Draft Development Plan Regulations.
- Open seminar with Community Council Area Forums to help identify the best way of delivering the outcomes of the Draft Development Plan Regulations.

- Citizens Panel questionnaire on satisfaction with the engagement on the Proposed Local Development Plan 2020.
- Engagement through Heads of Planning Scotland with other Local Authorities on consultation methods being used.
- Engagement with Aberdeenshire Youth Council to explore the best way on engaging with young people.

It is anticipated that these discussions will provide a firm background for a Development Plan Scheme to be published in November 2022.

Appendix 1 – Supplementary guidance

1. Affordable Housing
2. The Regeneration Priority Area
3. Energetica
4. The Coastal Zone
5. Local Nature Conservation Sites
6. Areas safeguarded or identified as areas of search for minerals development
7. Developer Obligations
8. Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy
9. Special Landscape Areas

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Assessment of draft Development Plan Scheme 2022

Assessment ID	IIA-000317
Lead Author	Piers Blaxter
Additional Authors	Fiona Reid
Service Reviewers	Mairi Stewart
Subject Matter Experts	Lynne Gravener, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Mairi Stewart
Approved On	Friday January 21, 2022
Publication Date	Monday January 24, 2022

Generated automatically from the Integrated Impact Assessment system, assessment ID: IIA-000317. Page 1 of 9

Section 1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Assessment of the possible impacts of the proposed Development Plan Scheme to be published in March 2022

During screening 3 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 2 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

In total there are 3 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 2 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 0 have been mitigated and 2 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 1 point has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by mairi.stewart@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

Section 2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO ₂ e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No

Section 3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe	positive, No		Safe, negative, No	Safe, unknown, No
Healthy	positive, No		Healthy, negative, No	Healthy, unknown, No
Achieving	positive, No		Achieving, negative, No	Achieving, unknown, No
Nurtured	positive, No		Nurtured, negative, No	Nurtured, unknown, No
Active	positive, No		Active, negative, No	Active, unknown, No
Respected	Yes positive,		Respected, negative, No	Respected, unknown, No
Responsible	Yes positive,		Responsible, negative, No	Responsible, unknown, No
Included	Yes positive,		Included, negative, No	Included, unknown, No

4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 2 - Non-discrimination Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child
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4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Included	The DPS contains statements that commit to positive engagement with Young people on the formulation of a future DPS
Responsible	There are no assumptions in the DPS that we do not consider young people are not responsible in their views and their need to be involved in the LDP process
Respected	The views of young people must be given the same weight as any other group. The DPS does not result in any actions that discriminates in respect to the interests of young people compared to other age groups

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Scottish Government	Specific obligations are made in legislation for Local Authorities to engage with young people in preparing the Local Development Plan	The DPS is a milestone in the preparation of a Local Development Plan. It sets out the participation that is anticipated in its development. With the specific focus required from the Scottish Government to engage with young people it is particularly important that the needs of the younger members of society are considered , assessed , respected and they are given a voice in preparing the Local Development Plan

4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

At this point in the production of the Local Development Plan 2022 there is limited scope for the views of young people to be taken into account as the processes we must follow have been set by legislation. The draft DPS makes reference to a future DPS to consider a future LDP and it is important that the needs of young adults are factored into this future programme.

4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Commitment to engaging with the Aberdeenshire Youth Forum represents a clear direction to take to ensure that the specific needs of young people are factored into the production of the next Local Development Plan.

4.7. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

The DPS contains a statement committing us to engagement with the Aberdeenshire Youth Forum before the publication of the next DPS to scope youth engagement.

4.8. Overall Outcome.

No Negative Impacts Identified.

There are no impacts on young people from the process that we will have to undertake to approve the LDP2022. The DPS has sufficient safeguards within it to ensure that young peoples vies will be considered in developing the programme for the next LDP.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups.

Indicator	Positive	Neutral.	Negative	Unknown.
Age (Younger)			Yes	
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability			Yes	
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral.	Negative	Unknown.
Low income		Yes		
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

5.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Age (Younger)	<p>The DPS may have an impact of younger age groups who are not so engaged with civic society as adults and may not yet understand some of the broad concepts being expressed in the DPS</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification The concepts presented in the DPS require a basic understanding of how local government decision making is undertaken and the processes involved in producing the Development Plan</p>

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation
Disability	<p>There may be discrimination towards people with cognitive issues. The DPS reflects a complex process that includes a number of matters which require an grasp of civic and governance issues</p> <p>Can be mitigated No</p> <p>Justification The concepts presented in the DPS require a basic understanding of how local government decision making is undertaken and the processes involved in producing the Development Plan</p>

5.4. Evidence.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Observation and previous Equalities Assessments undertaken for previous Local Development plans	Our own observation, confirmed by the Scottish Government in legislation identifies the Young people are not significantly engaged in the production of the Development Plan	Specific actions are proposed in the DPS to engage with the Aberdeenshire Youth Forum to scope and address this issue. It is beyond the scope of the DPS to provide a detailed overview of the concepts and processes used to develop the LDP
Other Evidence	Observation	The development plan is a map and place based exploration of future land use in Aberdeenshire. Experience has shown that translating this information into media suitable for those with visual impairment can be very challenging	Vigilance is required in the production of documents and describing place based land uses to ensure that context is provided for those with visual impairments.

5.5. Information Gaps

Lack of empirical data that cognitive disabilities impacts on the ability to understand the Development Plan Scheme . This is not significant if a presumption of potential impact is assumed

5.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
No measures to be implemented	none

5.7. Engagement with affected groups.

None

Trust is placed that members of the community with responsibility for those with disabilities who are stakeholders in the process would advise if there were issues with publications associated with the LDP. Despite the inclusion of the offer of both translation and speech services in previous LDP's there has been very little take up of these services.

5.9. Evidence of engagement

This has not been raised as an issue for us to address from carers. One representation to the Main Issues Report in 2019 demonstrated that disabled stakeholders at the Camphill Bennachar community could be assisted to make responsible and meaningful submissions to the process by their support workers.

5.10. Overall Outcome

Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Impacts are likely to occur, but have not been specifically identified to us by users.

Clear measures are taken to ensure documents are written in plain language wherever possible, but it has to be accepted that the LDP also has a function as a technical document and so negative impacts are almost inevitable.

5.11. Improving Relations

Views on the Local Development Plan processes are dealt with by staff at face value and the merits of their content, not who presented them. There is no opportunity for active discrimination.

5.12. Opportunities of Equality

Measures are included within the DPS to ensure appropriate engagement with all stakeholders, irrespective of their characteristics.

6. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Engagement with the Aberdeenshire Youth Forum	<p>Lead Officer Piers Blaxter</p> <p>Repeating Activity No</p> <p>Planned Start Thursday March 31, 2022</p> <p>Planned Finish Thursday June 30, 2022</p> <p>Expected Outcome Clear steer from the Youth Forum on the steps to take in engaging with young people on the Local Development Plan</p> <p>Resource Implications None at this time</p>