

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

DECEMBER 2023



INTRODUCTION

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended by the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006), the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) Regulations 2008, and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 require planning authorities to prepare a Development Plan Scheme each year.

The Development Plan Scheme sets out the timelines for preparing the new Local Development Plan 2027, updates on planning guidance and masterplanning and includes a Participation Statement which sets out who, when and how we will consult with stakeholders.

The Scheme is reviewed annually. The process for preparing local development plans in Scotland has changed. National Planning Framework 4 became operational on 13th February 2023 and new Development Planning Guidelines have

been published. Guidance on Local Place Plans has also been published, however guidance on preparing Regional Spatial Strategies has been delayed until 2024. Key changes included within the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 include the replacement of the Main Issues Report stage with a new Evidence Report and Gatecheck procedure aiming to streamline the Examination process and ensure an evidence led approach is taken to preparing the Proposed Plan.

The timelines will be reviewed and updated as work progresses on the various workstreams to support the existing LDP and to prepare the new LDP. Preparing the new Plan will involve extensive stakeholder and community engagement and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires engagement with specific stakeholder groups such as young people. The Participation Statement is included as an Appendix to this Scheme.



Moray Local Development Plan 2020

The MLDP2020 was adopted on 27th July 2020. A number of Masterplans, Supplementary Guidance and additional planning guidance have been produced to support the Plan and these can be viewed at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_133431.html

The following policy/ guidance and studies were progressed during 2023 to support delivery of the LDP2020 and NPF4;

- Carbon guidance
- Community Wealth Building guidance
- Mosstodloch Masterplan
- Findrassie Masterplan review
- Blackhillock Masterplan
- Landscape Sensitivity Study
- Business Needs Study
- Housing Need and Demand Assessment

Work is ongoing on a number of policy/ guidance and studies to support delivery of LDP2020 and to inform the Evidence Report for LDP2027, including;

- Natural Capital Study
- Forestry and Woodland Strategy
- Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance
- Lochyhill, Forres Masterplan
- Biodiversity studies and guidance
- Findrassie Masterplan
- Mosstodloch Masterplan
- Rural Housing Planning Interpretation Note
- Flooding and Drainage Supplementary Guidance

Moray Local Development Plan 2027

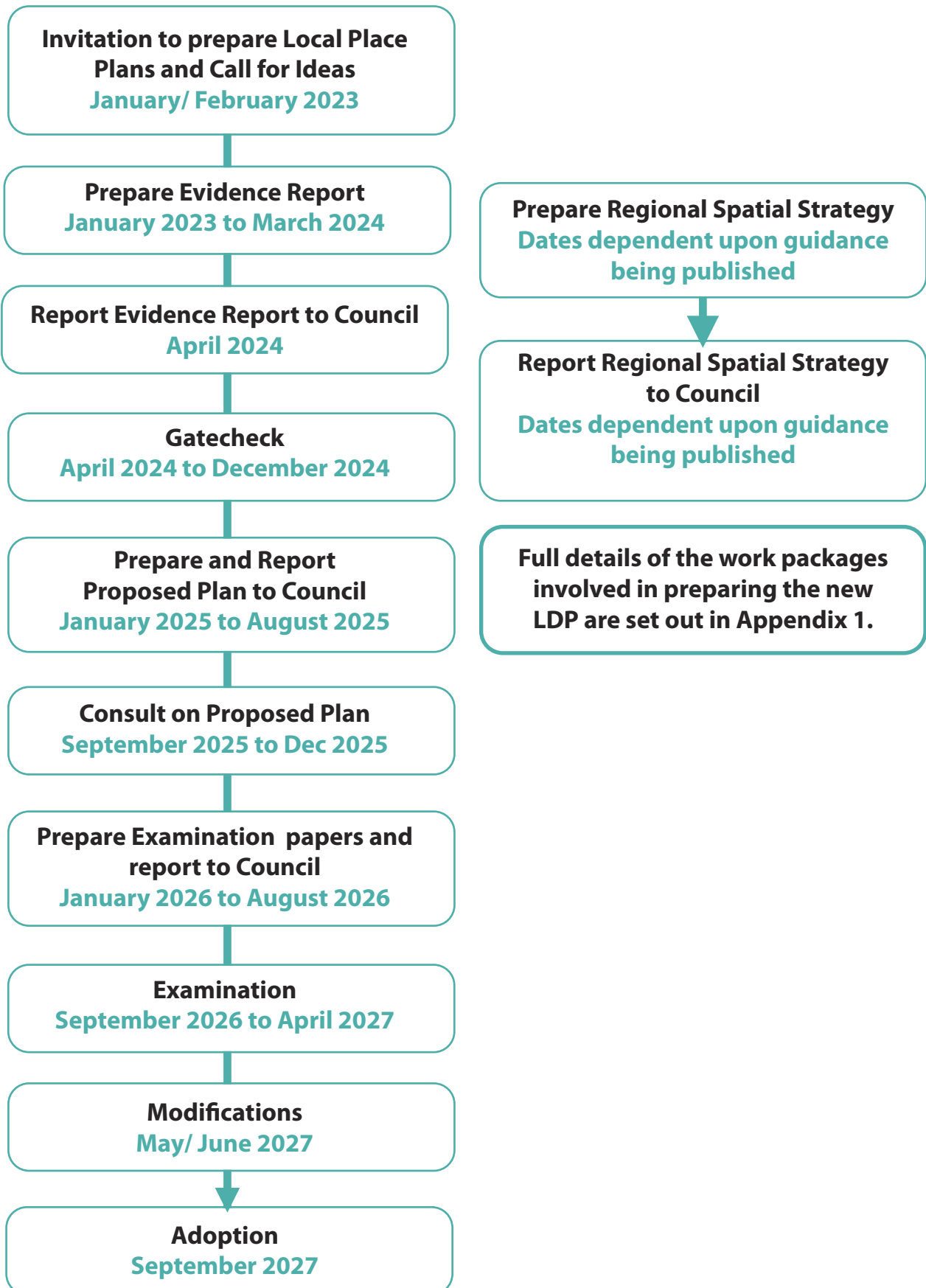
The diagram below summarises the key timelines in preparing the new LDP27 which will replace the current LDP2020.

As with many planning authorities in Scotland, the early stages of the plan process were delayed due to uncertainties around the final content and timescale for implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 which received royal assent in summer 2019.

Under the new requirements, the Scottish Government has confirmed that the target is to have new LDP's in place within 5 years of NPF4 being adopted. The timelines below reflect that target.



Key timelines in preparing the new LDP27



Participation Statement

The Council is committed to encouraging participation from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible in all Local Development Plan related activities, such as masterplans, development briefs and other guidance published throughout the lifetime of the Plan. This Participation Statement outlines how communities and stakeholders will be engaged and have the opportunity to engage, shape and inform the Local Development Plan and associated documents, in line with National Standards for Community Engagement.

The Council aims to ensure that;

- All engagement events are inclusive, open and transparent, this will be reflected in the venues we use, the documents we produce and our methods of engagement;
- Representations are fully considered and help to shape our approach and that feedback is provided to all representations received;
- We take the extra step to engage with as wide an audience as possible, reflecting the diverse nature of our community.

From the outset of the Local Development Plan process we have engaged with the local community, launching a Call for Ideas and a series of community engagement events across the LDP area. Comments received are being collated and will form part of the Evidence Report. The opportunity for community groups to prepare Local Place Plans has been advertised with around 14 groups currently expressing an interest. A series of 4 workshops with elected members have been organised covering a wide range of issues which are to be included within the Evidence Report.

Key agencies such as SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot, Scottish Forestry, Transport Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, NHS Grampian and Scottish Water will be engaged at relevant stages of the process including consideration of the Evidence Report. The Council has an infrastructure Delivery Group which includes representation from Transport Scotland, NHS Grampian, Scottish Water and officers from the Council Housing, Transportation and Planning service. The Council will continue to liaise with and consult with Homes for Scotland as an umbrella group and with its individual members.

The full Participation Statement is set out in Appendix 2.



KEY

Ongoing



Complete



Delayed/ Not started



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Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Participation Statement	Internal	Dec 2023	No	Ongoing
Self-Build land register	Internal	Publish November 2023	No	Complete
Invitation to prepare Local Place Plans	Internal	Publish January/ February 2023	No	Complete
Call for Ideas	Internal	Publish January/ February 2023	Advertisement	Complete
Early engagement to inform Evidence Report (see Participation Statement)	Internal	February 2023 to September 2023	No	Complete
20 minute approach for Moray	Internal	Agreed approach December 2023	No	Ongoing
Demographics-population, migration, households, employment for ER	Internal	Review Complete October 2023	No	Complete
Brownfield sites assessment	Internal	September 2023	No	Complete
Prepare Housing Land requirement	Internal	Complete HLR paper July 2023	No	Complete
Town and village capacity studies	Internal	Complete studies end May 2023	No	Complete
Review Countryside Around Town boundaries	Internal	Complete review end 2023	No	Ongoing



Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Review Special Landscape Area boundaries	Internal	Complete review end 2023	No	Ongoing
Review Town Centre boundaries	Internal	Complete review end 2023	No	Ongoing
Housing Need and Demand Assessment	Internal- led by Housing	Complete by June 2023	Financed by Housing Services	Awaiting Scottish Government Approval
Review of action taken to support and promote construction and adaptation of housing to meet the needs of older people and disabled people	Internal	Complete by February 2024	No	Ongoing
Strategic Housing Investment Plan	Internal	Annual review	No	Annual
Summary of the action taken by the planning authority to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy/ Travellers and an analysis of the extent to which that action has helped meet those needs.	Internal	Complete by end October 2023	No	Complete
Housing Land Audit 2023 & 2024	Internal	Annual reviews. Complete by end June	No	Annual
Need for short term let control areas	Internal	Review complete by February 2024	No	Ongoing
Annual Monitoring report 2023 and 2024	Internal	Annual reviews	No	Annual



Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Employment Land Audit	Internal	Annual review complete by end June	No	Annual
Town Centre Health Checks 2023	Internal	March 2024	No	Ongoing
Retail Study	External	Reported to P&RS Committee April 2022	No	Complete
Tourism development opportunities	Internal	Complete December 2023	No	No progress
Minerals survey Demonstrate capable of meeting the 10 year landbank of construction aggregate in all market areas, existing permitted minerals reserves and relevant elements from aggregates survey	Internal	Complete by end February 2024	No	Ongoing
Tourism Strategy	Internal	Complete by end 2023	No	No progress
Moray Economic Strategy	Internal	Complete by end October 2023	No	Complete
Annual economic activity report/ Council strategy	Internal	Complete by end October 2023	No	Delayed to March 2024
Business Needs survey	External	Complete by end September 2023	£20k	Complete
Town Centre Improvement Plans	Internal	Report to P&RS Committee October 2022	No	Complete



Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Community benefits (NPF4 policy)	Internal	Community benefits report going to Nov Corporate Services Cttee. NPF4 approach to be progressed by Q1/Q2 2023	No	Complete
Open Space Strategy	Internal	Audit complete end February 2023. Complete draft by end 2023	No	Ongoing
Carbon calculations NPF4 policy methodology	Internal	Completed by end Q1/Q2 2023	No	Complete
Play Sufficiency Assessment	External	Commission April 2023, complete end 2023	£30k	Complete
LBAP- priority habitats and species and site data	External	April 2023 to February 2024	£12,000	Ongoing
Forestry/ Woodland & potential wider land uses and recreation	External	January 2023 to December 2023	£45k split between Moray Council, HIE and Scottish Forestry	Ongoing
Conservation Area Appraisals phase 1	External	Complete March 2023	£12,000 in 22/23, potential for further appraisal work in 23/24	Complete
Heat mapping to inform potential for co-locating developments with high heat demand with sources of heat supply	Internal	Complete by end 2023	No	Complete



Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Realise full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources	Internal	Complete by end 2023	No	Ongoing
Local waste data	Internal	Complete Feb 2024	No	Ongoing
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Internal	Required for Proposed Plan	No	Ongoing
Data on peat and carbon rich soils	Internal	Complete by end 2023	No	Ongoing
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland and Ancient Woodland Inventory	Internal	Complete by end 2023	No	Ongoing
Review Tree Preservation Orders	Internal	Reports to P&RS Committee	No	Complete
Review of areas designated for their local nature conservation interests	Internal	Complete by March 2024	No	Ongoing
Coastal evidence and information- erosion, coastal change	Internal	Complete by February 2024	No	Ongoing
Landscape Sensitivity Study, details of wind turbines and solar farms and other RE infrastructure	Internal	Report to P&RS Committee Q3 2023/24	£5k	Complete
Allotments and Food growing areas	Internal	Complete by February 2024	No	Ongoing
Sport and Recreation Strategy	TBD	TBD	TBD	Ongoing



Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Details of infrastructure capacity and planned investments, including communications, drainage, water, energy, healthcare, education, digital and grey, green and blue infrastructure, drinking water facilities, sewerage, gas, electricity networks	Internal	Complete by February 2024	No	Ongoing
Learning Estate Strategy	Internal-Education	Assess implications by February 2024	No	Ongoing
Transport Appraisal and model	External	1st stage Complete by April 2024, 2nd stage timeline to be confirmed	£250,000	Ongoing
Evidence base on public transport	Internal	Complete by February 2024	No	Ongoing
Condition, use and proposals for harbours	Internal	Complete by February 2024	No	Ongoing
Active travel networks and data	Internal	Complete by September 2023	No	Complete
Active Travel Strategy	Internal	Complete by November 2023	No	Complete
Digital infrastructure and not spots, gaps in provision, investment plans	External	Complete by September 2023	No	No progress



Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy	Internal	Complete by November 2023	No	Complete
How we have sought views	Internal	Complete by January 2024	None	Ongoing
How we have invited LPP and taken account of registered LPP	Internal	Complete by January 2024	None	Ongoing
Site appraisal methodology	Internal	Complete by end 2023	None	Ongoing
Areas of prime agricultural land	Internal	Complete July 2023	None	Complete
High risk development areas (HSE)	Internal	Complete July 2023	None	Complete
Creative Scotland plans and local cultural plans	Internal	Complete February 2024	None	Ongoing
Number and range of cultural venues and facilities, including live music	Internal	Complete February 2024	None	Ongoing
LOIP, Community Plan implications for LDP	Internal	Complete February 2024	None	Ongoing
Draft Evidence Report chapters sent to stakeholders. Set out any areas of dispute regarding evidence and areas of agreement	Internal	Send January/ February 2024	None	Ongoing
Report to full Council	Internal	Report to full Council April 2024	None	



Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Gatecheck Procedure	External- DPEA	April 2024 to December 2024	Yes - Cost of Gatecheck to be clarified by Scottish Government	
Template for settlement statements- place based approach	Internal	March 2024	None	Ongoing
Prepare Delivery Plan	Internal	April to June 2025	None	Not Started
Draft spatial strategy	Internal	February 2024 to November 2024	None	Ongoing
Report proposed plan to full Council	Internal	August 2025	None	
12 week consultation	Internal	September to end November 2025	None	
Prepare schedule 4's for Council and Examination	Internal	December 2025 to April 2026	None	
Report Schedule 4's to Council and request Examination	Internal	August 2026	None	
Reporter issues further information requests and convenes hearings if necessary	Internal	September 2026 to April 2027	None	
Reporter issues Examination report and Plan modified	External	May/ June2027	Council required to pay for cost of Examination	
Intention to adopt Adopt Plan	Internal	July 2027	None	
Publish Delivery Programme	Internal	September 2027	None	



Work package	Internal/ External	Timelines	Budget requirement	Progress on track
Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report	Internal	March 2023	None	
SEA Draft Environmental Report	Internal	January 2025	None	
Final Environmental Report	Internal	June 2025	None	
Publish post adoption SEA Statement	Internal	November 2027	None	
Habitats Regulation Assessment	Internal	June 2025	None	

Participation Statement

Engagement Outcomes

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- Early meaningful and inclusive engagement meeting National Standards for Engagement
- Youth Engagement linked to the Curriculum for Excellence
- Geographic and demographic spread of engagement
- Spatial outputs from engagement to inform “Place” based plan
- Partnership working to engage beyond Local Development Plan both locally and strategically on Moray Growth Deal, Regional Spatial Strategy and Locality Plans
- Deliver engagement through a climate change lens





