

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME

MARCH 2021



INTRODUCTION

The Development Plan Scheme is a statutory requirement which sets out the Council’s proposed timetable for the review and preparation of its Development Plan and explains how it will engage with community, business and other interested parties.

The Scheme is reviewed annually and sets out the key milestones for the preparation of the Moray Local Development Plan 2025 which will replace the current Moray Local Development Plan 2020 which was adopted on 27th July 2020. The Scheme also sets out a programme of work supporting implementation of the current local development plan and the engagement associated with those projects.

Changes to LDP Process

The process for preparing local development plans has changed and the Scottish Government are shortly to publish guidance/ regulations providing details of the changes which planning authorities should follow. The key changes include the plan being more place based, with a new Evidence Report and Gatecheck process aiming to streamline the Examination process and to ensure the Plan is based upon a robust evidence base.

Timelines indicated within this Scheme are therefore indicative until further details and anticipated timescales for each stage of the process are published.



Moray Local Development Plan 2020 implementation

The main actions are set out within the Action/ Delivery Programme available at <http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file135149.pdf>

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The community and other key stakeholders will be engaged over the next 12 months in the course of the following projects;

Project	Timelines	Form of Consultation/ Engagement
Elgin South Masterplan	Report draft to Committee March 2021	To be confirmed due to Covid-19. New approaches are being developed for the engagement on Elgin City Centre Masterplan such as virtual flyover trails of key projects, Virtual Town Hall exhibition and interactive story mapping.
Buckie South Masterplan	Report draft to Committee Q3 2021	
Forres, Keith, Buckie and Lossiemouth Centre Masterplans	Report drafts to Committee before end 2021	
Elgin City Centre Masterplan	Draft approved by Committee January 2021. Consultation mid March to end May 2021, followed by short consultation on final version.	
Cultural Quarter MGD designs	Consultation during Q2 and Q3 2021 as designs evolve for Elgin Town Hall, Grant Lodge, Cooper Park and Public Art Strategy.	
Housing Mix Delivery, Dallas Dhu MGD	Consultation as designs evolve for Dallas Dhu Q3 2021.	



Moray Local Development Plan 2025

The indicative timeline for preparing the Moray Local Development Plan 2025 is set out in Table 1 below, as referenced above, these are all subject to publication of Scottish Government guidance/ regulations.

Evidence Report published	January 2023	The consultation requirements on the Evidence Report are to be clarified. However, it is essential that community and stakeholder consultation takes place to inform the Evidence Report and identify what needs to change and be addressed in the Plan. Members workshops will be held at the outset of the process and followed up with regular briefings.
Submit Evidence report to Gatecheck	May 2023	The Gatecheck process will independently scrutinise areas of conflict identified in the Evidence Report and consider whether sufficient evidence has been provided. If the Gatecheck concludes that insufficient evidence has been provided the planning authority may not be able to proceed with the Plan until that is addressed.
Proposed Plan- publish for consultation	February 2024	This will involve extensive engagement.
Submit for Examination	July 2024	Unresolved objections to the Proposed Plan will be submitted with a request for an Examination.
Adoption	July 2025	Modifications will be published following the Examination and then the Plan will be adopted.

The Evidence Report is a new requirement and guidance/ regulations will clarify what constitutes “sufficient evidence”. A member of staff has represented Heads of Planning Scotland on a national group working with Scottish Government to develop proposals for the Evidence Report and Gatecheck and Moray Council was a pilot project 2 years ago on this subject.



The table below summarises the main areas of evidence likely to be required, who is responsible and budget implications.

Regional level evidence	e.g. RSS, MES, MGD, National and Regional Transport Strategy/ Plans, NPF		Various sources.
Community engagement	20 minute neighbourhoods, local place plans, youth engagement		This will require a corporate approach across a number of services led by SP&D.
LDP2020	Delivery programme and monitoring reports		SP&D
Education	School Estate Strategy		Education
	School roll projections		Education, produced every 6 months
Business needs	Employment land audit		SP&D- annual report
	Business needs survey		External support £xxxx funded from existing LDP budget
Transportation	Active Travel Strategy		Transportation-Programmed for completion end 2021.
	Strategic Trunk Road/ Railway Appraisal		Transportation-External support
	Settlement based interventions		Transportation External support
	EV charging strategy		Transportation Programmed for completion end Sept 2021 (high level).
Digital Infrastructure	Coverage/ gaps, open reach rollout		SP&D Spatial dataset available mid 2021.



Housing	Regional Targets		SP&D Targets will be published in NPF.
	Housing Need and Demand		Housing External support to be commissioned early 2022. Cost c£20k from existing Housing budget.
	Housing Land Audit		SP&D produced annually.
	Vacant and derelict land audit and action plan		SP&D
	Urban capacity studies		SP&D. Programmed for early 2022.
	Self build register		SP&D new requirement.
Demographics	Census data		Systems Manager.
	Household projections		SP&D national datasets
	Population projections		SP&D national datasets
	Unemployment rates		SP&D national datasets
	Areas of inequality		SP&D- national datasets
Minerals	Audit		SP&D
Environment	Open Space Strategy*		SP&D
	Pressures on habitats and species		SP&D Information from stakeholders and Local records centre- budget to be confirmed
	Natural heritage designations- issues arising		SP&D- feedback from stakeholders
	Built heritage designations, review conservation areas and potential listings.		SP&D



Environment cont.	Buildings at risk- link to vacant and derelict		SP&D
	Woodland planting/ felling and compensatory planting		SP&D- data from Scottish Forestry if available.
	Prime agricultural land		SP&D
Sport and Recreation	Sports and Recreation strategy*		SP&D
	Play sufficiency strategy*		SP&D
Health and well-being	Health centres and patient numbers		SP&D- data from NHS Grampian
	Health and well-being data		SP&D- data from NHS Grampian
Water	Scottish Water investment plans		SP&D- Scottish Water data
Energy	Upgrades, renewables		SP&D
Wind Energy	Landscape Sensitivity Study		SP&D study completed by end March 2021, funded by NatureScot
Cultural Venues			SP&D- new requirement
Gypsy/ Traveller Sites			SP&D and Housing
Retail	Retail model		SP&D- to be commissioned £25k from existing LDP budget.
	Up to date TC health checks		SP&D



Critical evidence which resources are not currently available for



Critical evidence which is programmed and can be resourced



Critical evidence which is gathered routinely or currently being progressed.



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.

At the outset of the Local Development Plan process we will engage with community councils through the Joint Community Council network, explaining the process, the issues we are highlighting, how to engage and how Community Councils can help to raise awareness of the Plan.

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 throughout the process. The Council has an infrastructure Delivery Group which includes representation from Transport Scotland, NHS Grampian, Scottish Water and officers from the Council Housing, Transportation, Flood Team 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.



