

Our ref
Your ref

Planning and Environment
Service
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Please ask for the Planning Policy Team
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21 May 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Aberdeenshire Council's Planning and Environment Service previously wrote to all schools within the authority area at the end of 2018 to invite pupils to engage in the planning system. This is something that the Council have a strong commitment to, which links in with the Children's Charter and wider reforms being made to the Scottish planning system. A number of schools were involved in a Youth Engagement Pilot Project which saw Primary pupils design their own small housing development. Secondary pupils completed a number of map based activities with the final activity linking directly into the Main Issues Report public consultation. This project was subsequently shortlisted in the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning 2019.

The Main Issues Report is the first formal stage of the plan making process where members of the public could get involved and comment on areas where policy change is required. It is also the first opportunity to comment on the sites where new development could be permitted. Responses to this consultation, including comments received from Secondary pupils, were then analysed by officers following the close of the consultation period. Conclusions were then used to prepare the Proposed Local Development Plan.

The Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2020 sets out the preferred policies and development sites for the intended Aberdeenshire LDP 2021. This is the stage of the plan that Aberdeenshire Council are currently at and marks a key milestone and opportunity for public comment prior to the Proposed LDP being submitted for Examination by an independent Reporter appointed by Scottish Ministers. The agreement from Aberdeenshire Council has been reached following a period of substantial scrutiny, and previous public consultation on a Main Issues Report in 2019.

To build upon previous engagement with schools and in lieu of not being able to offer a programme for the young people within Aberdeenshire through the usual school environment due to ongoing restrictions associated with Covid-19, we have produced a set of activities which are suitable for Primary and Secondary pupils, that can be undertaken from home.

These activities look at planning in general before specifically looking at information within Aberdeenshire. It is hoped that these activities will complement the consultation period as all ages of residents throughout Aberdeenshire will be engaged with the planning process. The interactive PDF explains where the pupils can find the activities to learn more about planning in general but also about the consultation that Aberdeenshire Council are currently undertaking.

More information on the consultation that the Council is undertaking can be found on the Council's [website](#), including how to comment should you/ pupil's families wish to, along with other material including information on online consultation events.

Following the approval of the Proposed LDP 2020 by Aberdeenshire Council on 5 March 2020, an 8-week [consultation period](#) on the Proposed LDP commenced on 25 May 2020 and end on 17 July 2020.

Anyone can comment on the content of the Proposed LDP during the consultation period and it would be good to see our young people participating in the process. A pro-forma response form is available online and hard copies will be distributed upon request. We strongly encourage the use of this response form in preparing your representation.

We do hope that you will be able to use the set of activities provided. Should you have any questions on the material supplied or require further detail on the consultation please do not hesitate to contact Fiona.Thompson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P / M', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp.

Paul Macari
Head of Planning and Environment Service