

The Development Plan Scheme 2018

Introduction

The Council is required by statute to produce an annual Development Plan Scheme (DPS), setting out the programme for preparing and reviewing the Local Development Plan (LDP) and what is involved at each stage. The DPS has to detail the months that the Council proposes to publish the Main Issues Report and the Proposed Plan; and when the Council expect to enter into the examination process with Scottish Ministers. The Participation Statement must form part of the DPS and state when, how and with whom consultation will take place.

The Review of the Planning System

In mid-2016, the Scottish Government commenced the review of the planning system and at the end of 2017 a new Planning Bill was published. It is anticipated by the summer of 2018 we will have a new Planning Act with secondary regulations and circulars to follow. For the LDP process a number of changes are in the Bill:

- The National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy will be one document and have strengthened status in the Local Development Plan process.
- The Local Development Plan will be reviewed every 10 years or when required.
- The review process will commence with preparation of an Evidence Report and a “Gatecheck” with the Scottish Government to determine if there is justification for the review and the adequate evidence for the policy approach.
- The Main Issues Report will be replaced by a Draft Plan that will undergo public consultation.
- There will be no statutory Supplementary Guidance.
- Action Programmes will become Delivery Programmes that will focus on delivering development allocations.
- Communities will be able to produce ‘Local Place Plans’ for their community.

The Council’s Position

The present Local Development Plan was adopted along with a suite of Supplementary Guidance by the Council in May 2017. Because the LDP is up to date, the Council will proceed for the next year by monitoring the use and effectiveness of the Plan and formulate evidence as to the approaches we may wish to proceed with for the new Local Development Plan.

The Kirkwall Urban Design Framework will be completed in 2018 and will be approved as Supplementary Guidance. Through the ‘Your Kirkwall’ project, exemplary community engagement has been carried out to create an inclusive plan which reflects the community. There has also been a particular focus on youth engagement because young people have arguably the greatest stake in the future of the town. There will be a 6 week period of public consultation that will be carried out in the Spring.

The Council anticipates that we will not publish for consultation a Main Issues Report, a Proposed Plan nor enter into the existing examination process with Scottish Ministers again. Until the finalisation of the new Act and associated documentation, it is unclear what processes must be followed in the review of the Plan. It is not appropriate to commit to such details in this DPS as it may be inaccurate or could mislead planning stakeholders.

It is anticipated that a clearer programme will be provided in the 2019 DPS.