

## 1. YOUR DETAILS

1.1 Please let us know the capacity in which you are completing this questionnaire. Are you...

- A member of the public
- A community representative e.g Community Council

If yes, which area do you represent?

- A developer/ their agent
- A landowner/ their agent
- From a Key Agency
- Other

1.2 Please provide your name and contact details:

Name and Organisation:

Emac Planning LLP

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

1.3 If you are acting as an agent or completing this on behalf of an organisation, group or landowner, please provide their details:

Organisation/group/landowner:

Scotia Homes Ltd

Address: Balmacassie, Ellon, Aberdeenshire

Postcode: AB41 8QR

Telephone: 01358 722441

Email: Alastair.Struthers@scotia-homes.co.uk

## 2. ABERDEEN'S MAIN PLANNING ISSUES

Feel free to continue on separate sheets if necessary and attach to the questionnaire. You do not have to answer every question.

### Vision

2.1 What do you think are the most important things that make Aberdeen a good place to live, visit and/or work?

Healthy economic base, attractive architecture and quality of place, recreational and cultural facilities, attractive countryside and scenic quality relating to its coastal setting.

2.2 What do you think should be the Council's top priorities for the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan?

Continuing to promote and support sustainable economic growth and sustainable development, protection and enhancement of built and natural heritage, investment in green infrastructure, promoting and supporting an enhanced vision for the role of the town centre and attracting mixed uses. Promoting and supporting mixed use development and high quality design. Supporting continued investment in infrastructure and creating a vision capable of implementation. Ensuring deliverability of development on a range of sites, brownfield and greenfield.

2.3 Do you have any particular aspirations for your community or Aberdeen as a whole that you think should be taken forward through the ALDP? For example, what are your views on recycling of waste, affordable housing, access to green space or ways to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

Scotia Homes Ltd supports sustainable mixed use development which addresses all of the above whilst also addressing local community objectives. In particular, the achievement of the above objectives should form part of a holistic design process ensuring high quality development.

## Policy Topic Areas

What do you think should be our main planning priorities for...

- 2.4 ...the City Centre? (For example, what should the role of Union Street be? Does the City Centre have all the uses we want, or should there be more uses there - and if so where could they go?)

Scotia Homes Ltd supports the draft national policy contained in paragraph 54 of Draft SPP that town centres should be promoted for a mix of uses including cultural and community facilities, retail, leisure, entertainment, recreation, as well as homes and businesses. It is understood that the Town Centres Review referred to will support a joint multi-party approach to achieving a vision for town centres and this approach is supported.

- 2.5 ...providing infrastructure? (For example, how should new infrastructure be provided and how might it be paid for?)

In relation to new development funding infrastructure, the advice and policy tests contained in Circular 3/2012 on Planning Obligations is supported. The Strategic Development Fund should be subject to review/consultation through this process and further public sector funding should be encouraged in order to secure deliverability.

- 2.6 ...transport and accessibility? (For example, how can we make it easier to travel in and around Aberdeen? Should we look at pedestrianisation in the City Centre?)

In principle pedestrianisation is not supported. Proposals for the Town Centre, together with weighing up the benefits of pedestrianisation should be considered as part of a holistic approach and considered as part of an overall vision, currently being considered through the Town Centres Review.

Park and Ride facilities are supported in appropriate gateway locations on the edge of the City, to ease congestion within the centre.

- 2.7 ...ensuring we have high quality buildings and places? (For example, how can we better protect our built heritage and ensure high quality and sympathetic architecture and landscape design?)

The principles of placemaking and achieving high quality design in accordance with Government policy and advice is supported. The provision of more Council officers trained in architecture/urban design offering advice on this issue would be supported.

The recent consultation on Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plans is supported as a tool for heritage protection.

- 2.8 ...meeting the needs of business and industry? (For example, what can be done to retain existing businesses and attract new employment opportunities to Aberdeen?)

Attract and retain high quality employees and employers through creating a high quality environment with sufficient choice in housing, recreational and community provision. Ensure a sufficient supply and range of affordable employment land. Enhance the City Centre and support a lively, vibrant, pleasant and cultural environment.

- 2.9 ...meeting Aberdeen's housing and community needs? (For example, how can we meet the needs of people who cannot afford mainstream housing?)

Through the provision of affordable housing, through both the private and public sector provision. Consider and support other alternative forms of housing such as live/work units, assisted living/sheltered housing and student housing to create supply with the existing housing stock.

**2.10** ...supporting retail centres across Aberdeen? (For example, should we be safeguarding existing centres, and what are your thoughts on new out-of-town retail parks?)

It is considered that retailing policy should prioritise and focus upon the City Centre. New out of town retail parks should continue to be assessed against the sequential test, but also in relation to design, scale and relationship with the community concerned.

**2.11** ...protecting and enhancing the natural environment and preventing flooding? (For example, what areas or features should we be safeguarding?)

Continue with existing policy protection approach.

**2.12** ...ensuring that resources and waste are managed sustainably? (For example, can we make more innovative use of waste as a resource? Should we encourage renewable energy use? How could we do these things?)

Yes, this is supported, and developments could be assessed against a sustainability checklist.

**2.13** If you have any views on topics not covered above, please write them below.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return completed questionnaires to:

Local Development Plan Team  
Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure  
Aberdeen City Council  
Business Hub 4  
Ground Floor North  
Marischal College  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1AB

Twitter: @AberdeenLDP

You can also visit the Aberdeen Local Development Plan Facebook page.

**COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES SHOULD BE WITH US BY NO LATER THAN 14 JUNE 2013.**

If you wish to be added to the LDP E-Mailing list to be kept informed of our progress in producing the next Local Development Plan, please tick here.

If yes, please provide an email address